

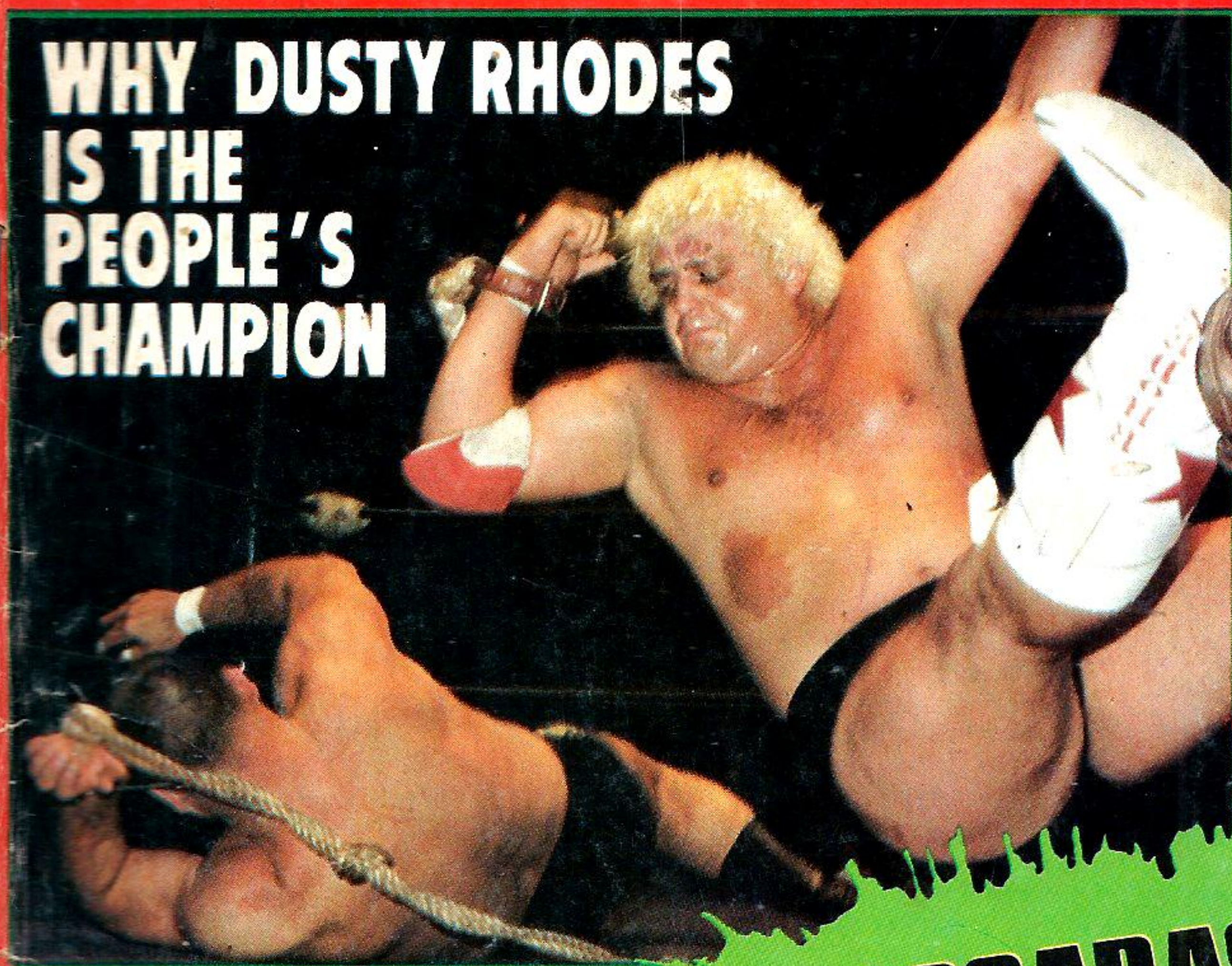
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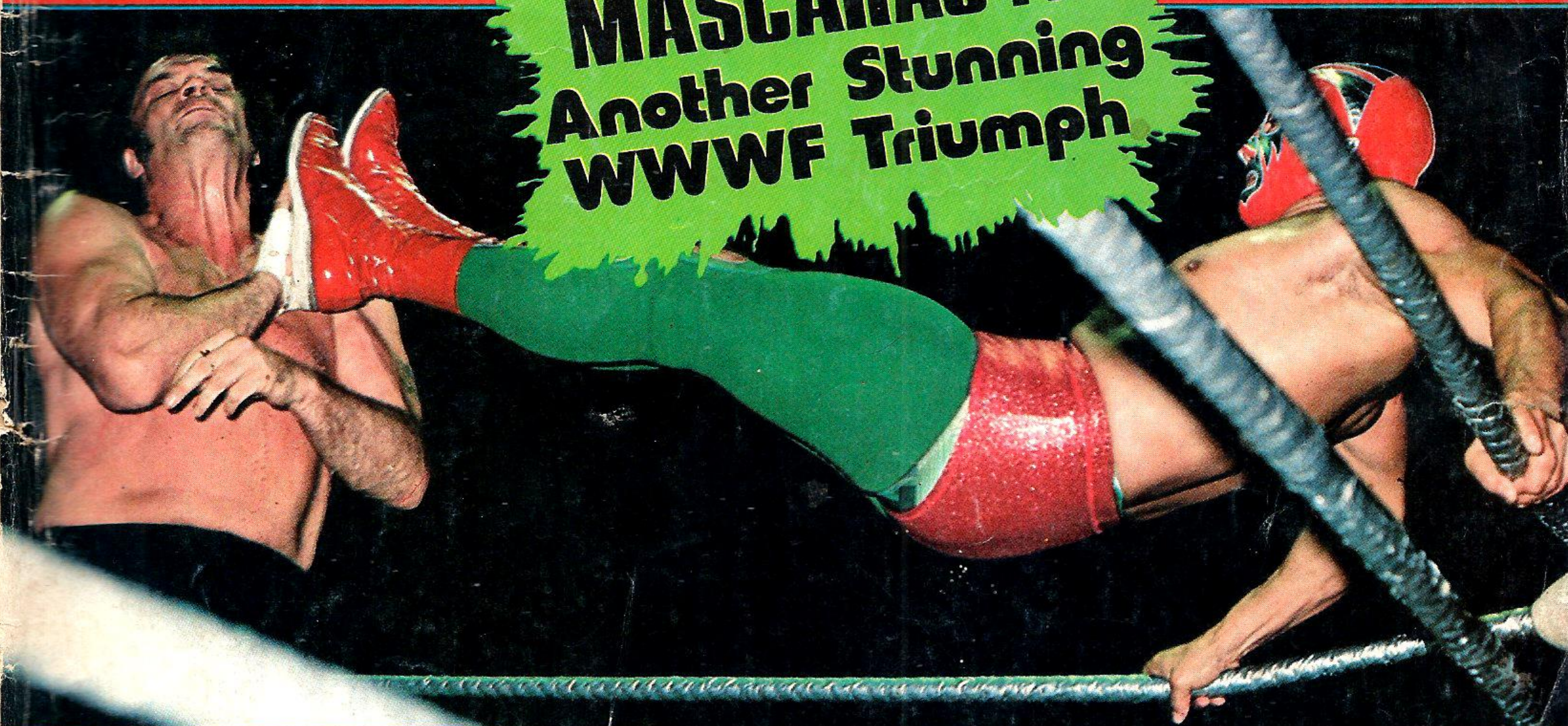
Apartment **Wrestling** Spectacular: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS... OF THE FURIOUS KIND!

Wrestling

WHY DUSTY RHODES IS THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION



MASCARAS !!!
Another Stunning
WWWF Triumph



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE HARLEY RACE
A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
Dick Slater vs. A NIGHT TO REMEMBER
Dino Bravo

SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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An apartment wrestling spectacular

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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

- 1—BOB BACKLUND
- 2—MIL MASCARAS
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—KEN PATERA
- 5—PETER MAIVIA
- 6—SPIROS ARION
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—DOM DeNUCCI
- 9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

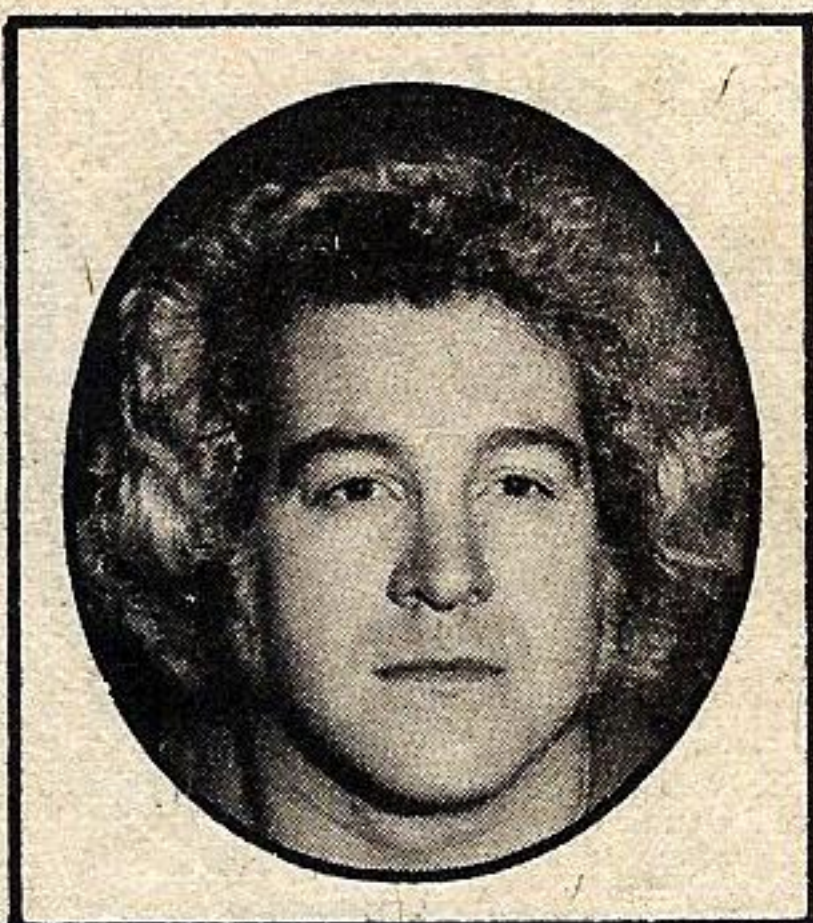
AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE

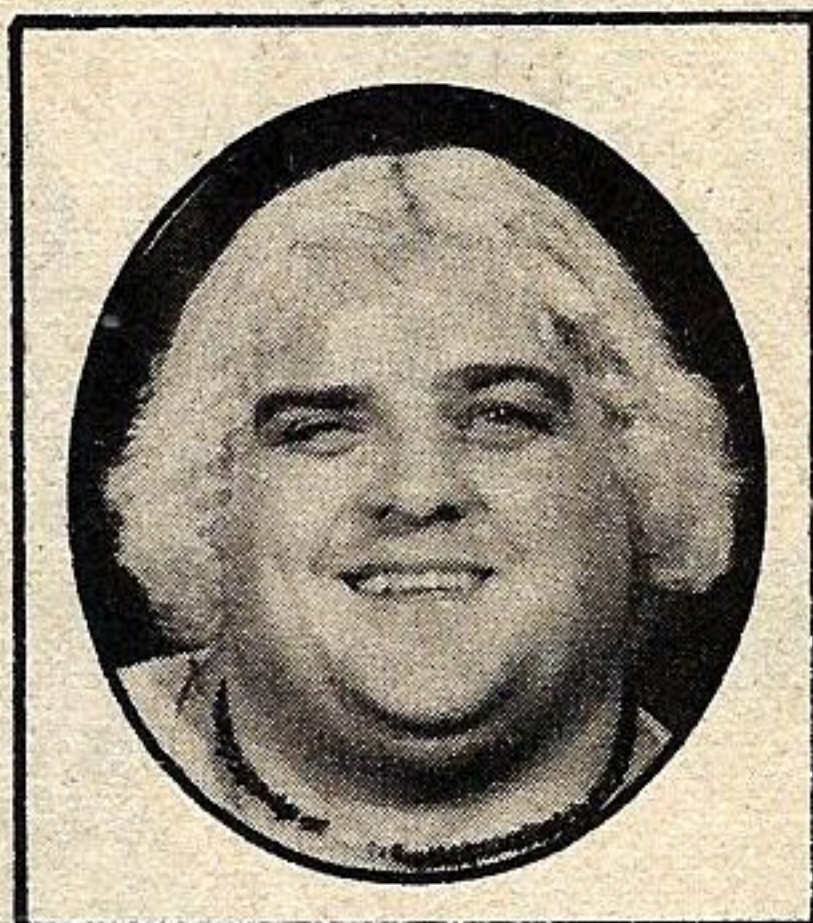
- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—RAY STEVENS
- 3—LARRY HENNIG
- 4—BILLY ROBINSON
- 5—JIM BRUNZELL
- 6—GREG GAGNE
- 7—SUPER DESTROYER
- 8—ANGELO MOSCA
- 9—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 10—BOBBY DUNCUM

MOST POPULAR

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—BOB BACKLUND
- 3—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 6—IVAN PUTSKI
- 7—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 8—DINO BRAVO
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 10—MR. WRESTLING II



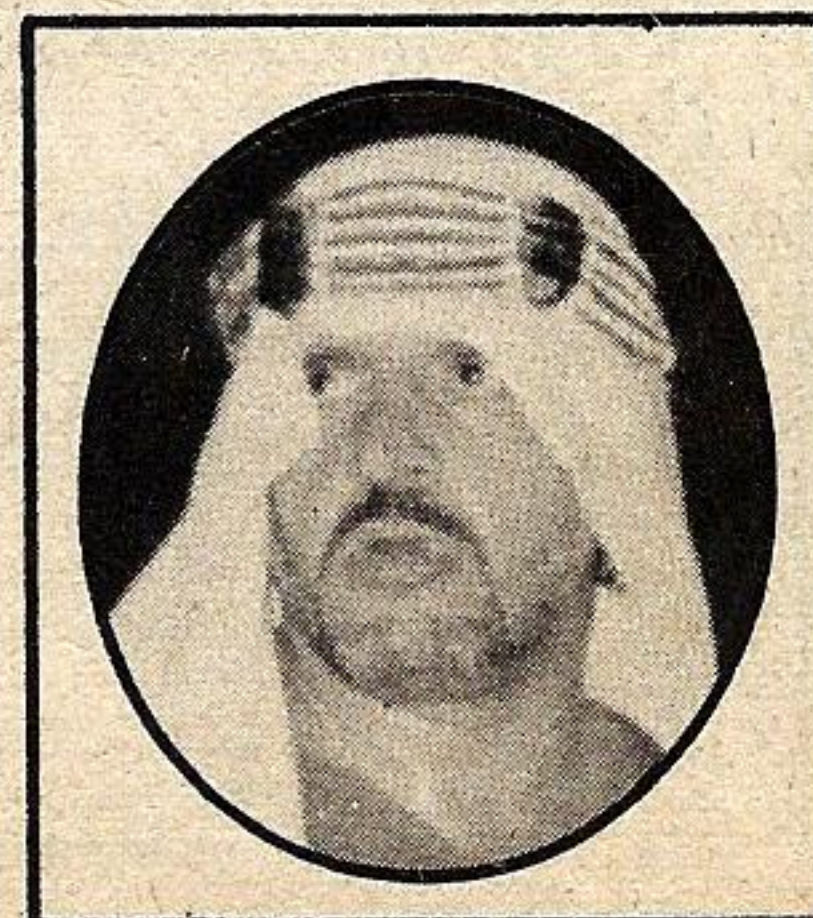
KEN PATERA



DUSTY RHODES



RAY STEVENS



THE SHEIK

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: Harley Race

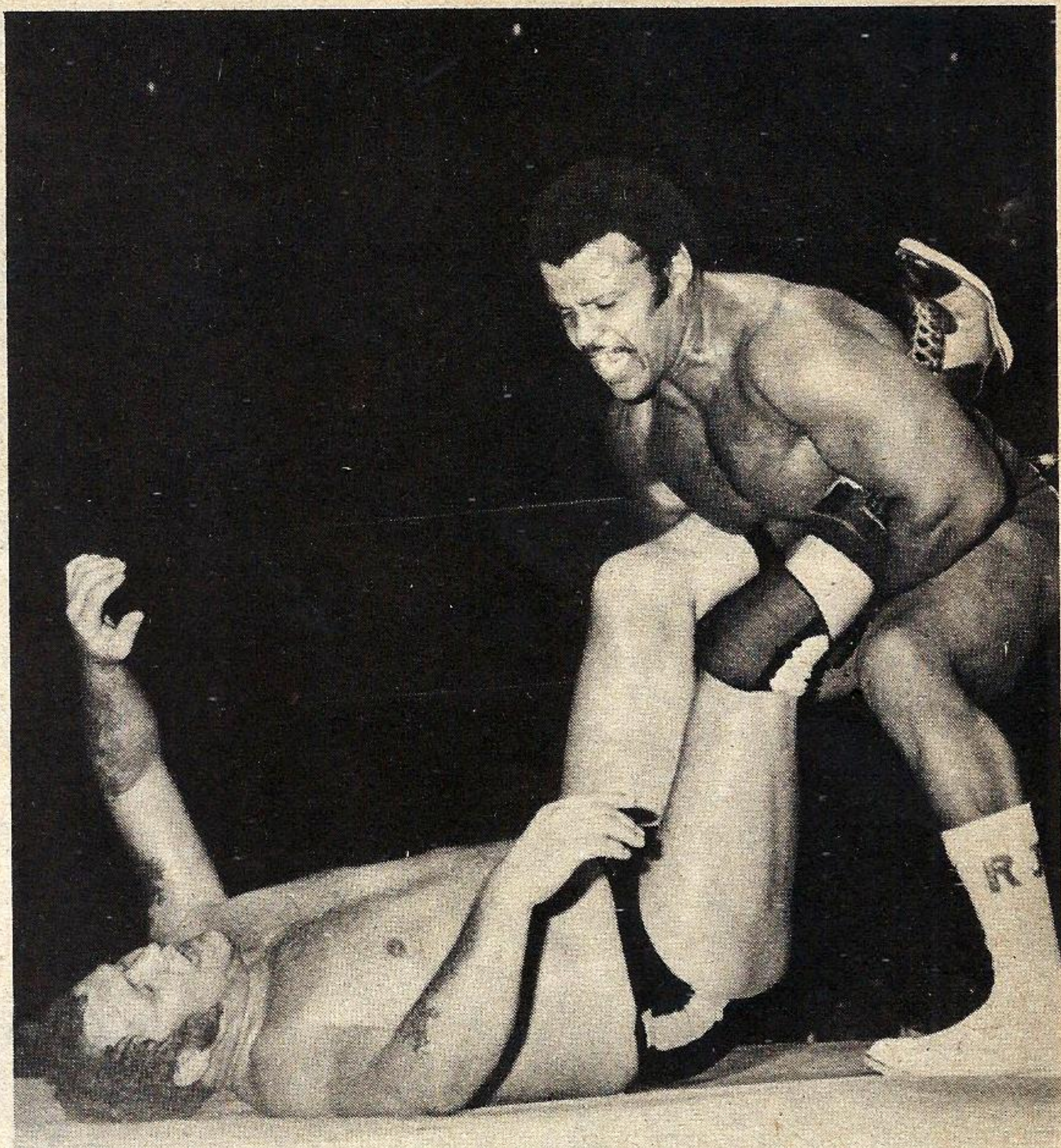
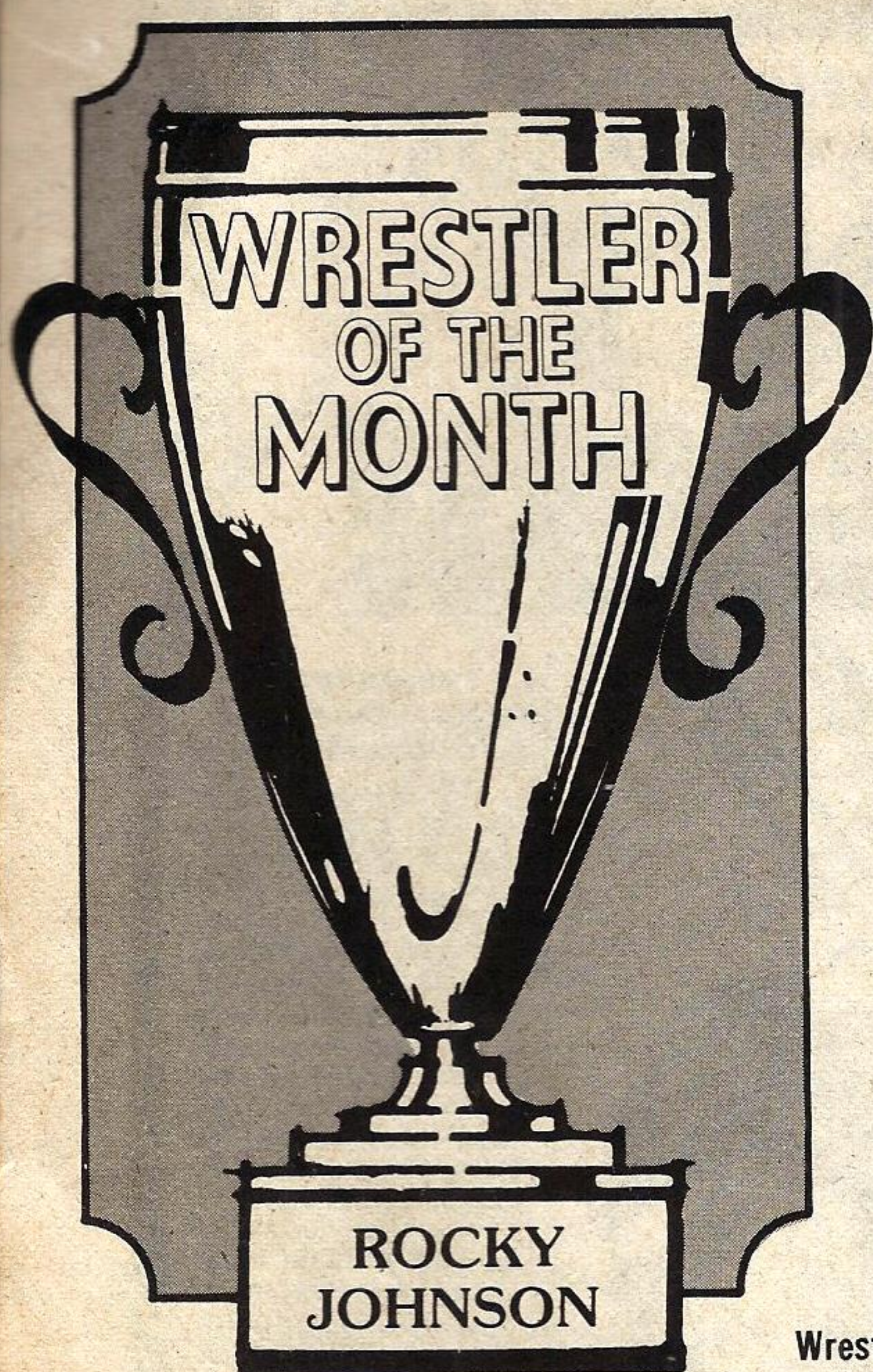
- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—DICK SLATER
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—LARS ANDERSON
- 7—TERRY FUNK
- 8—DORY FUNK JR.
- 9—JACK BRISCO
- 10—JIMMY SNUKA

TAG TEAMS

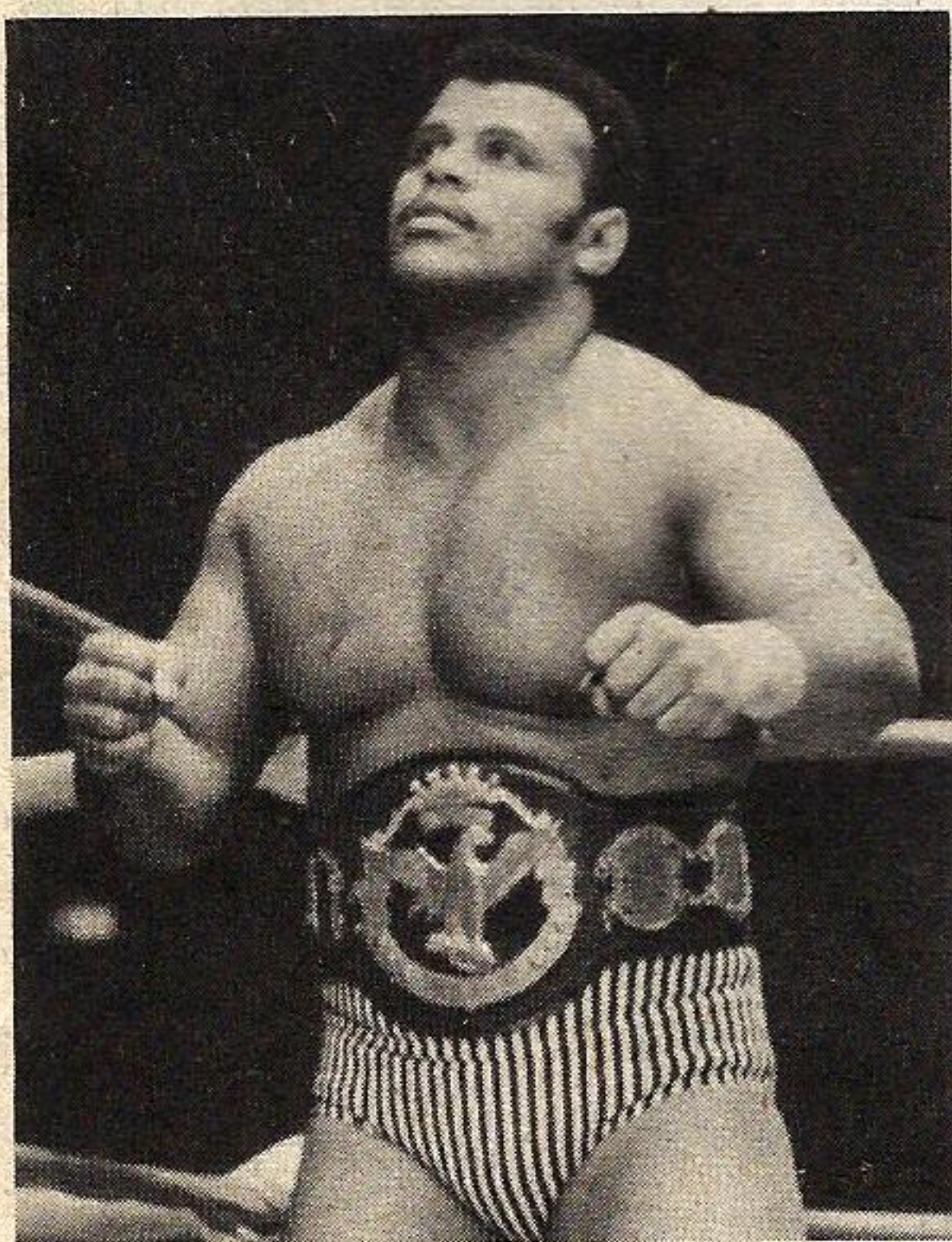
- 1—RIC FLAIR & GREG VALENTINE
- 2—MR. FUJI & PROFESSOR TANAKA
- 3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 4—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 5—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—IVAN KOLOFF & MR. SAITO
- 7—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 8—JOSE LOTHARIO & ALBERTO MADRIL
- 9—TONY GAREA & LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 10—BUDDY ROSE & ED WISKOWSKI

MOST HATED

- 1—RIC FLAIR
- 2—KEN PATERA
- 3—STAN HANSEN
- 4—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 5—GREG VALENTINE
- 6—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 7—SUPER DESTROYER
- 8—SPIROS ARION
- 9—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 10—THE SHEIK



Wrestler of the Month Rocky Johnson gives NWA king Harley Race assorted troubles and pains during their most recent title clash. It was Rocky's performance in bouts like these which gave Rocky the month's top honors.



Rocky Johnson psyches himself before a recent match. Johnson gives his all to every encounter.

HE IS A man for all seasons. He has faced terrible adversity, struggled valiantly against it, and has emerged heroic in the eyes of his many fans. Indeed, though many of his deeds go unheralded, he is revered by many people in the sport.

As if life has been in a continuous conspiracy against him, Rocky Johnson has received many bad breaks throughout his professional career. Yet he has survived every test, like Job, and his faith in the

inherent goodness of the sport has never wavered. No man is more deserving this month of this award than Rocky Johnson. He is an inspiration to everyone connected with wrestling.

What makes him especially deserving this month are his recent matches against Harley Race for the NWA title. He has come very close to taking the belt. (In fact, in one match, he came within one second of winning. Unfortunately, time

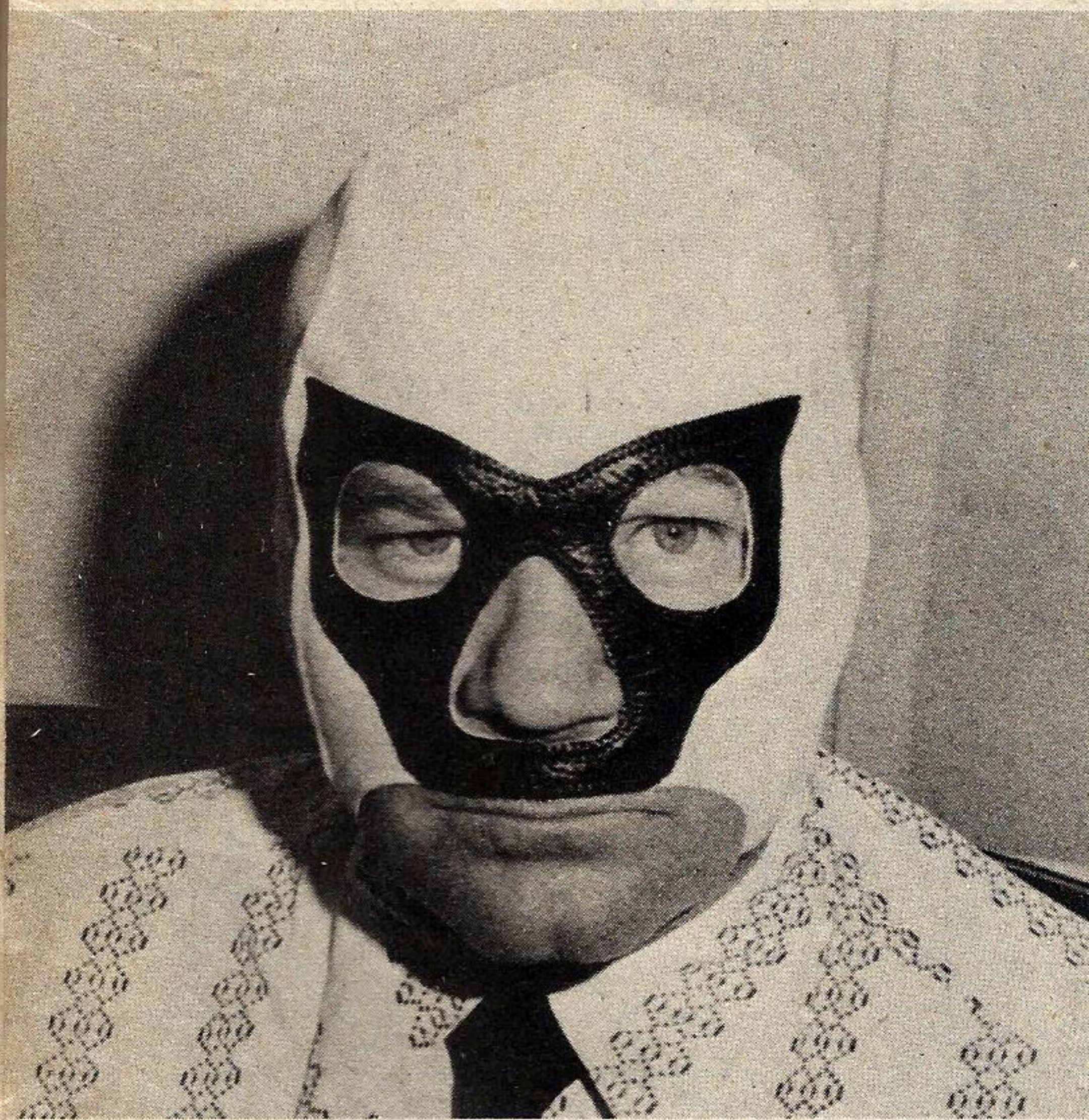
(Continued on page 50)

Every month, the editors of **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING** search the globe to find the one man whose achievements have surpassed those of all other wrestlers. Sometimes the selection may shock you. Other times you will be very pleased by the selection. But you will always agree our choice deserves to be "Wrestler of the Month!"

SPORTS REVIEW BONUS PINUP

**CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW**





POINT: MR. WRESTLING II

I HAVE NOTHING against these young men who are just now coming into their own in wrestling. Some of them are very good, I'm sure. But one thing I cannot abide is the trend lately to throw them right into competition for world championships. What is going on?

Some of these young men have proven they are talented. They know a lot of maneuvers. In a gym, they look tremendous. But they still don't have all that much savvy when they get into actual battle. That takes years of experience. These kids are still wet behind the ears.

POINT • COUNTERPOINT • POINT • C

COUNTERPOINT: BOB BACKLUND

I DON'T OFTEN disagree with Mr. Wrestling II, but this time I must. What makes him think experience has anything to do with a man's ability to defend himself?

Mr. Wrestling II is a fine wrestler. He has done extremely well in title competition. I know. I have seen him in action. I cannot deny his ability. But I wonder—has he ever seen me? In all modesty, I can honestly say that my record over the past two years has been fairly impressive. I have battled some pretty tough competition, both scientific and rulebreaking. I have managed to do rather well. By all rights, I

have qualified for a title shot; yet according to Mr. Wrestling II, I should be denied my just due—simply because of my “lack of experience.”

Well, I think this is wrong—dead wrong. No man should be judged solely on the length of time he has spent as a professional wrestler. I think men should be judged on their merit. A young man can sometimes do a much better job than an older man with twice the experience. Each case is different.

There are many of us who have been in the sport less than five years who are very deserving of title shots. We have earned them, and we have proven our abilities time and again. In spite of this, according to Mr. Wrestling II, we should be denied our rights to wrestle for championship belts. So far as I'm

Look, I'm not all that old myself, but I do think I know a hell of a lot more than I did 10 years ago. I feel like I'm just beginning to know what I should do in a title match. So how can these kids even think of trying for a title? It boggles the mind.

This practice of putting in inexperienced kids in title matches has to stop. Someone could get seriously hurt. I have seen it happen: Some young man, not knowing what he was doing, getting permanently injured by a rulebreaking champion. I don't need to mention names; everyone knows who I mean.

Let's face it. These young guys are very good. They know a lot of complex maneuvers and they can execute them well. But they are not ready for title competition. No man who hasn't been a professional wrestler for at least five

years should even be considered for a title match. And I think that should be adopted as a rule by all three major associations.

I'm not trying to make things more difficult for these young wrestlers. In fact, I'm trying to make life a little easier for them. I know what can happen to an inexperienced young wrestler who makes a quantum jump into the big leagues. Seeing a young life wasted is not a pretty sight. I'd like to see that avoided—at all costs.

After five years, these young mavericks will have learned a lot about the sport. They will be ready to try for a major title. After 10 years in the sport, they will be ready to win major titles. But giving them a title shot after they have only been in the sport for a short period of time is doing a disservice—both to them and to us. □

COUNTERPOINT • POINT • COUNTERPOINT

concerned, this goes against everything I've ever been taught. America is the land of opportunity. We young men should not be denied our chance for celebrity on the basis of our ages alone.

In all fairness, I do understand why Mr. Wrestling II made his statement. I cannot deny there are some young men who have been given title shots even though they don't deserve them. But although this has happened, there is still no reason to say that all young men should be denied title shots.

Might I suggest that Mr. Wrestling II go back and rethink his position. I think upon closer examination of the issue, he will change his mind. A man who deserves a title shot should be given a title shot. Age should not enter into the matter. □



MAILBAG



Fans from all over the world wrote to us in praise of our story featuring Billy Robinson and Rick Bockwinkle (above). Almost all agreed that these two grapplers are indeed very great wrestlers.

A LESSON LEARNED

"Those Men Are Great!" (February 1978), the story about the battle between Nick Bockwinkle and Billy Robinson, taught a valuable lesson: it is very easy to glorify the past and put down the present. It is much more difficult to fully appreciate what we have now.

The old man who came to realize that wrestling today is just as exciting today, (if not more so) than it was when he was young now knows what the average fan appreciates; men like Bockwinkle and Robinson can be fantastic. They proved it on this one night.

Of course, Bobby Heenan's interference did not help matters

any, but Billy was effectively able to counter it. Indeed, Robinson came very close to taking the AWA belt that night. I'm sorry he did not succeed. And I'm sure that old man learned a few things about modern wrestling from watching these two greats.

Sometimes the old can learn a lot from the young.

JOHN MCINNESS
Gary, Ind.

EXCITEMENT GLORIFIED

I just finished reading "The Apartment Wrestling Massacre!" (February 1978), and I felt I just had to write. What an exciting battle! What magnificent women!

Debbie and Helene provided some of the most intriguing action

I've seen in an apartment wrestling story in a long time. I do believe Debbie, the tennis pro, was a singularly fascinating woman, one who could glorify the sport. I hope she does battle again soon.

Of course, Helene also did well for herself, but there was no way she could equal the force with which Debbie wrestled.

What magnificent women!

JEFFERSON PEARSON
Toronto, Ont.



The battle between Helene and Debbie (above) brought in a record response, nearly all of it favorable.

THE TIME IS NOW

You are so right when you say, "Verne Gagne Must Turn His Back on the AWA" (February 1978). He has done all he need do for that association. It is time he make

(Continued on page 54)

CONSIDER THE WORD champion. The dictionary defines it as, "One who has defeated all opponents and is ranked first, especially in a sport." It is also defined as, "One who fights for another or defends a principle or cause."

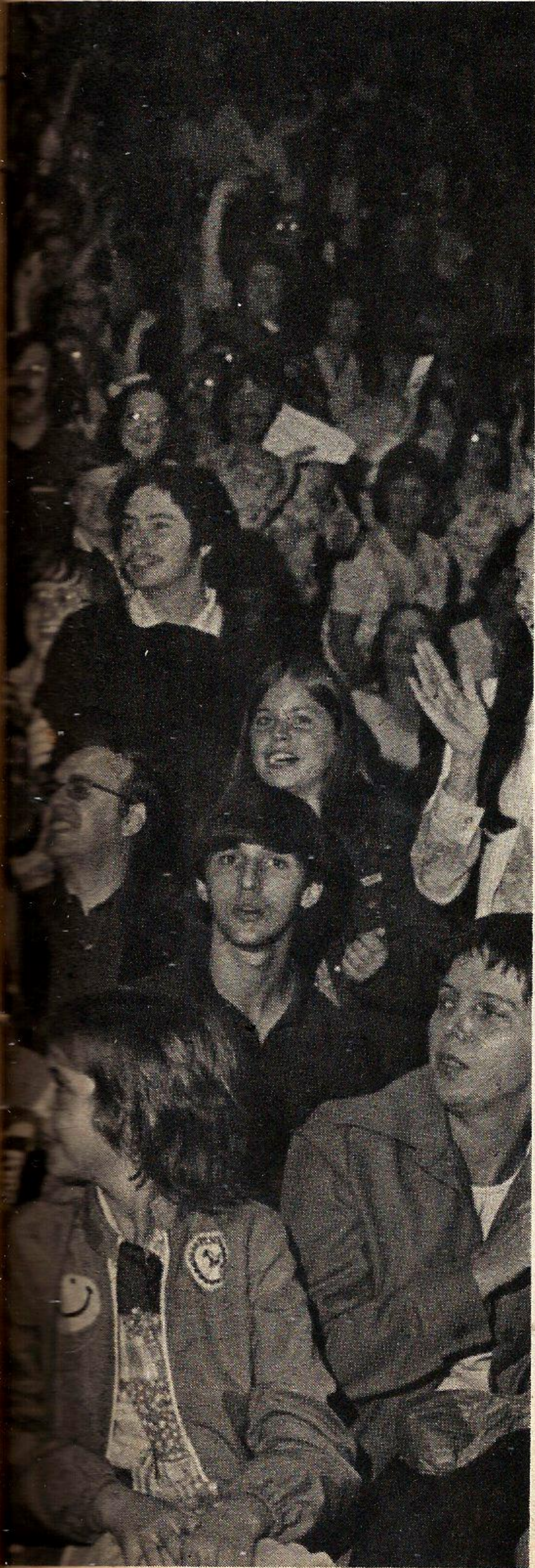
Certainly Superstar Graham, Nick Bockwinkel, and Harley

Race must be considered champions. Officially, they won the belts, in the usual manner, during title matches. But there is another champion in wrestling—an uncrowned champion—who not only fits the first definition, but the second as well. He earned his championship over the course

WHY



DUSTY RHODES IS THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION



All the commissions and all the rules can't make the fans love Dusty Rhodes any less. Even if a major title belt doesn't encircle his waist, no one dares tell his legions of fans, that Dusty is less than the best. The people have spoken: Dusty is champion of them all

of time. Unfortunately, there is no belt to accompany this title. There is only the love and adoration of millions of wrestling fans all around the world. And that is good enough for the people's champion, Dusty Rhodes.

How did this come to pass? Why do people hail Dusty Rhodes as their champion, even though he has never officially won any major championship title? Another look at the

definition of the word "champion" helps to answer that question.

"One who fights for another or defends a principle or cause." What does this mean in terms of the wrestling scene today. Sure, Graham, Race, and Bockwinkel have the belts. But they certainly do not have the love of the fans. And they certainly do not care much about the fans.

(Continued on page 44)

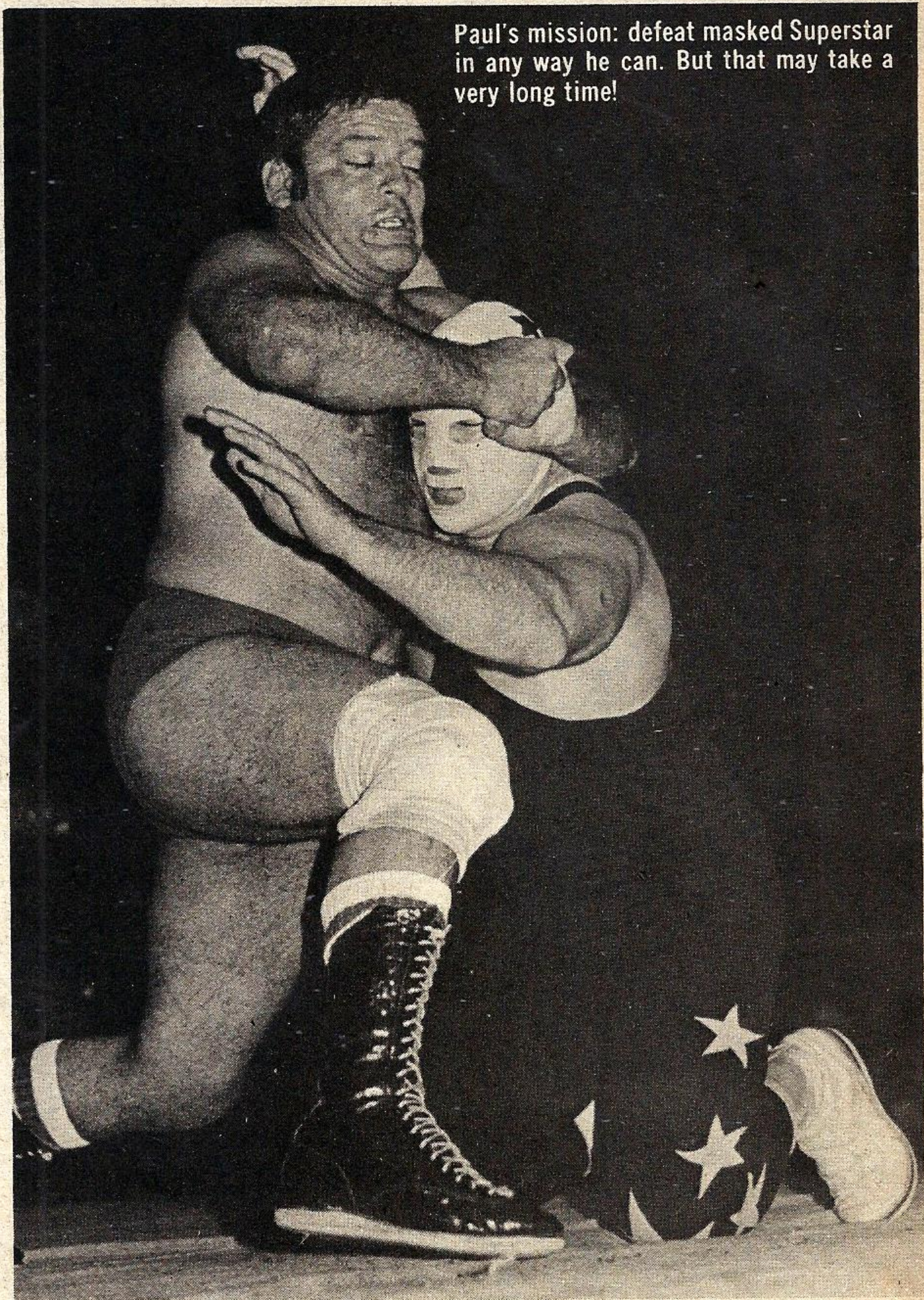
PAUL JONES:

ONE SHOULD NEVER put forth one's best effort when going out to battle for freedom and truth. That helps to ease the hurt. With the knowledge that there was always just a little more you could have done if given another chance it becomes easier to accept the pain, pick up the pieces, and try again. And again. And again.

To keep going. But to what end? To another stone wall? To another dead end? Keep going. Keep trying. Another new maneuver. Does it work. No. Try another. Would a different arena make a difference? No. Keep moving anyway. Don't put forth your very best effort. Always hold back just a bit. It saves you from frustration. It helps.

Around you go. What time is it? If this is Friday, it must be Richmond. Masked Superstar. Again. And again. Like a maze, with hundreds of false starts and even more false ends. Which way is out? Why? What does it all mean? When you start questioning the very essence of your life, you start on the road to doom. And you won't even know when you get there.

Paul Jones wants revenge. He has cause. His intended victim is Masked Superstar. So far, however, Jones has not been successful. He keeps trying. Different maneuvers yield different results. Different cities bring different aspects to their battles. But the ends are all the same. There has to be yet one more battle. There has to be that one decisive match. Once again. And again. Another stone wall. Another dead end. It never stops. Try again. Find the right path.



Paul's mission: defeat masked Superstar in any way he can. But that may take a very long time!

"I FEEL CAUGHT

There is no question Paul hates this man. He wants Masked Superstar stopped. Forever. But that is not an easy task. Jones knows this. He is trying. He has right on his side. He knows this too. But that does not make the job any easier. There are new strategies to devise. New maneuvers to perfect. The right combination. That's what Paul is looking for. The right combination to effectively eliminate this hateful man from the wrestling scene. Paul can do it. At least he thinks he can. It should be easy. It isn't.

"It's really strange. Something inside me forces me to keep wrestling this guy. I have to finish him off. I'm not sure exactly how I should do it. Each time I try something new. I get a little further along. I get closer to my goal. But I don't reach it. I feel like a rat caught in a maze. I never seem to get to the end, to the reward.

"Only one thing keeps me going. The knowledge that I can always do better. A little more effort the next time, and I will have this guy. I will end his vicious rulebreaking once and



Masked Superstar captures Jones in a painful bearhug. But Paul will soon retaliate with painful maneuvers of his own. Jones feels he has to keep trying, keep going along with this violent feud. There is something inside him which forces him to continue the series of battles with this man.

The more he tries, the more Paul Jones fails to get closer to the NWA title. This is the story, the agonies and frustrations of an athlete in the complex world of professional sports

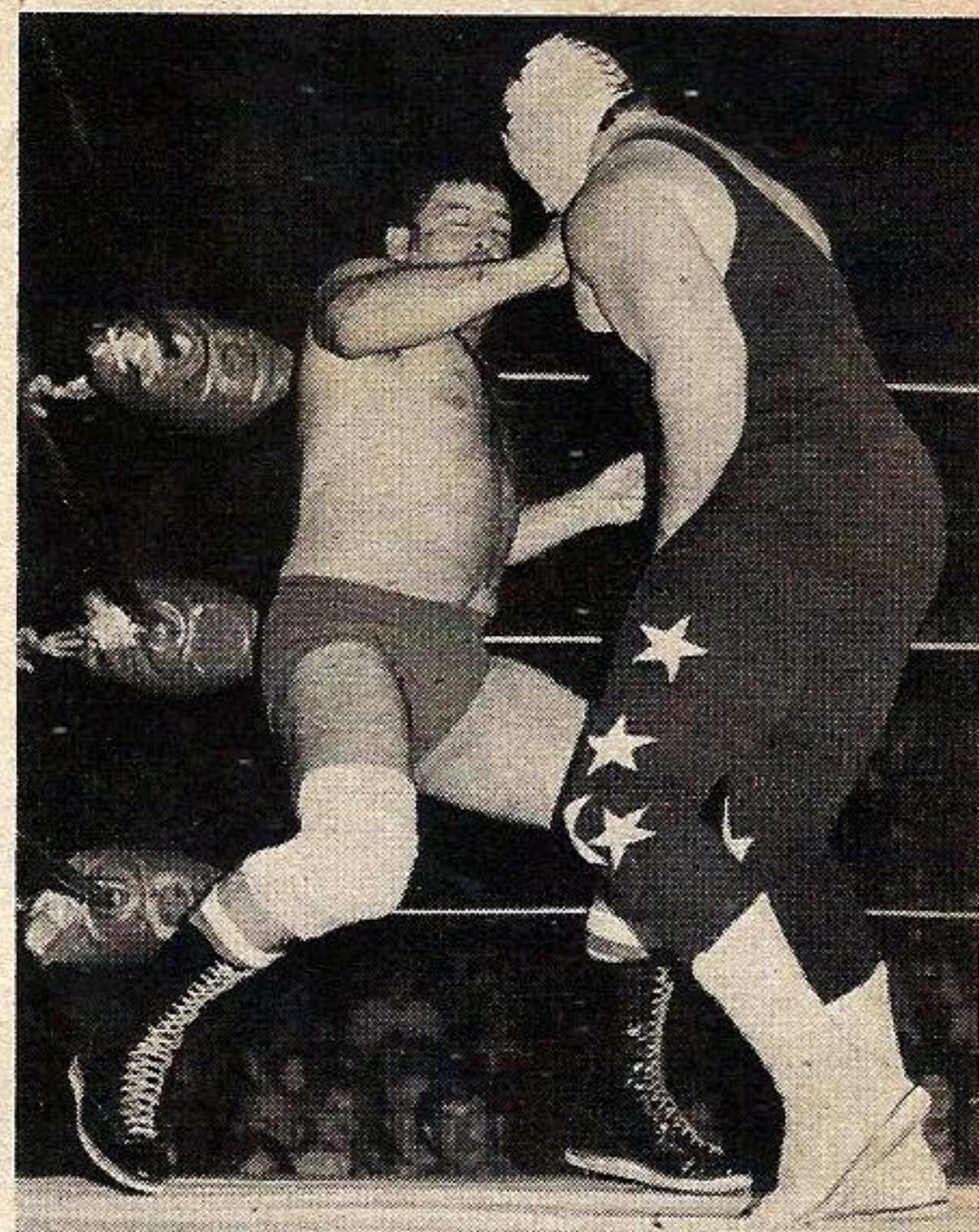
**LIKE A RAT
IN A MAZE!"**

for all. That keeps me going. Only that."

It could be easier for Jones—much easier—if he didn't have to contend with Boris Malenko as well. Masked superstar is bad. Boris Malenko is worse. He interferes at the wrong times. At the wrong places. He confuses Paul. Throws him off balance. He loses his timing. It all works to Masked Superstar's advantage. That's what a manager—especially one so evil as Malenko—does best. So Jones deals with Malenko. Another dead end. Another stone wall. Another false passage in the maze. Another reason for another match.

"Have you heard about Paul Jones? Poor fellow." They really do say that. In hushed tones, of course. But Paul hears the whispers. He knows what fans are saying. He can't help himself. He must keep going. He must find the way out of the maze. Ending the reign of terror by Masked Superstar would be the way out. He knows that. He can't help what he does.

Another wall. Another attempt to defeat Masked Superstar. Is it Friday again? Richmond. Masked Superstar. Try a Boston Crab. Does this work? Yes? Does it make a difference to the outcome? Yes. Use it. Try something else. Try



Paul gathers up all his strength to subdue his vicious opponent. Jones hoped this one punch would do the trick and stop Masked Superstar.

again. Another attempt. Change the city. Malenko interferes. Paul could have won it right then. Malenko again. Always. Just when Jones is so sure he has the match. It's not fair. It's not right. Tell that to Boris. He'll laugh in your face. He's doing it for his wrestler.

And on it goes. Other towns and other arenas. Where will it all end? Will it all end? Don't break the rhythm. Can't get through the maze that way. Try another path. Get a new maneuver. Don't break the rhythm.

It all has to stop.

There has been a lot of blood shed in this feud. Paul Jones may be hurting himself more than he realizes, or even cares to realize. He is driven. That much is sure. But sometimes, it all seems so very senseless. Get out of the maze Paul. Get back on the right track. You may be hurting yourself more than you could ever hurt the Masked Superstar. Just once, put forth your best effort. Give it your all and beat this cruel rulebreaker. You won't be frustrated. You'll be victorious.

In the end, that's all that counts. That's the only way out of the maze. □



When Boris Malenko tries to interfere with the action, Jones turns his attention to him. Nothing makes Paul more furious than to have a manager try to interrupt a match. But this has happened continually in the matches he has had against Masked Superstar.

For much too long,
the Texas tag team title
has been in the hands
of ruthless rulebreakers.

Now, like the
legendary lawmen
of the early West,
Jose Lothario and
Alberto Madril have
combined to clean up
the town and make it
safe for decent folks

Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril



PRIDE RETURNS TO TEXAS

IF ONE WERE to get really technical, it could have been called a conspiracy. But when is it conspiracy to do what is right? When is it a crime to make people proud of themselves once again. If this is criminal, then Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril are guilty of bringing pride back to Texas. They

hereby stand convicted. They are sentenced to bringing honor and glory to the Texas state tag team title for a long time to come. There can be no appeal to a higher court. The people of Texas constitute the highest court of all in this case.

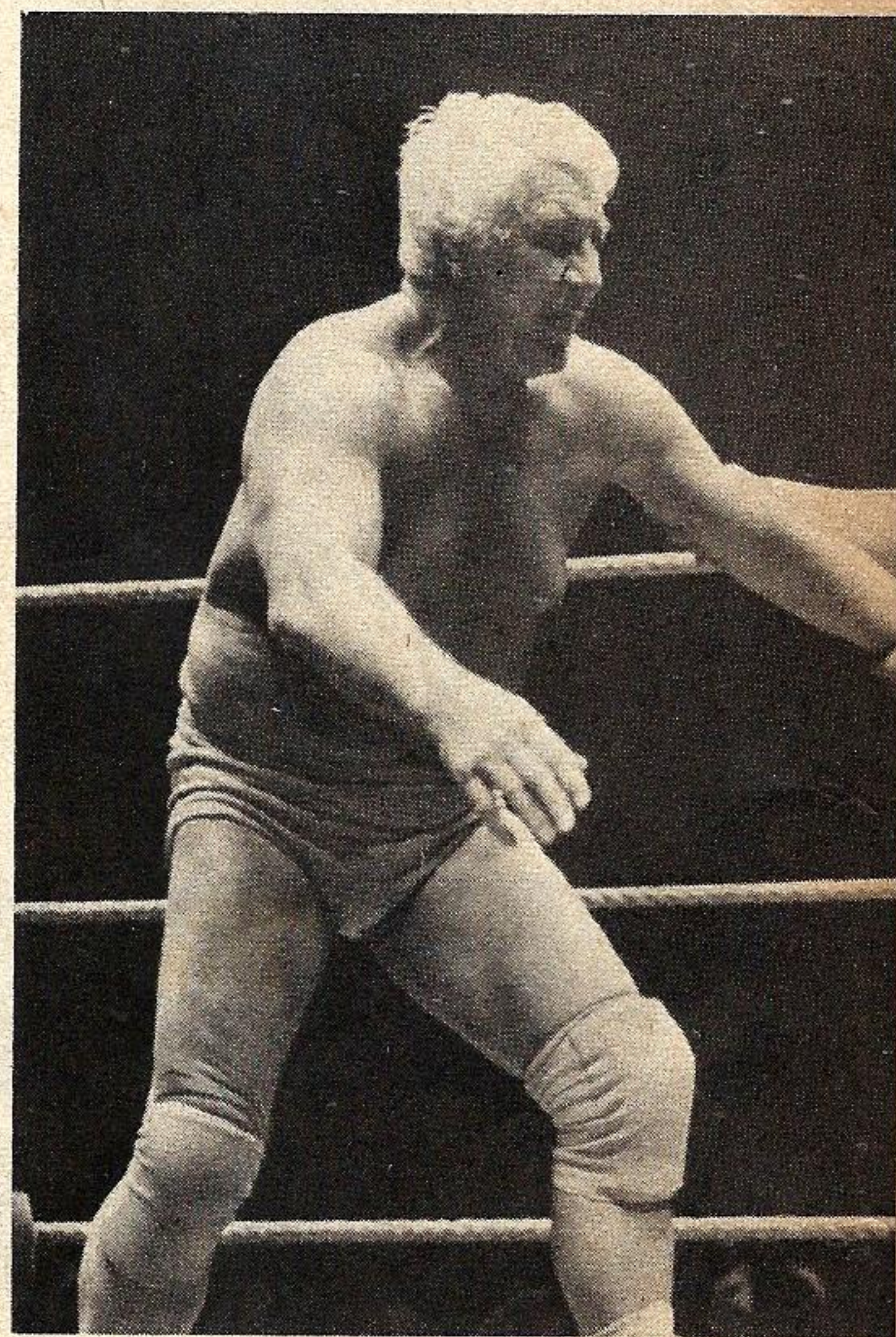
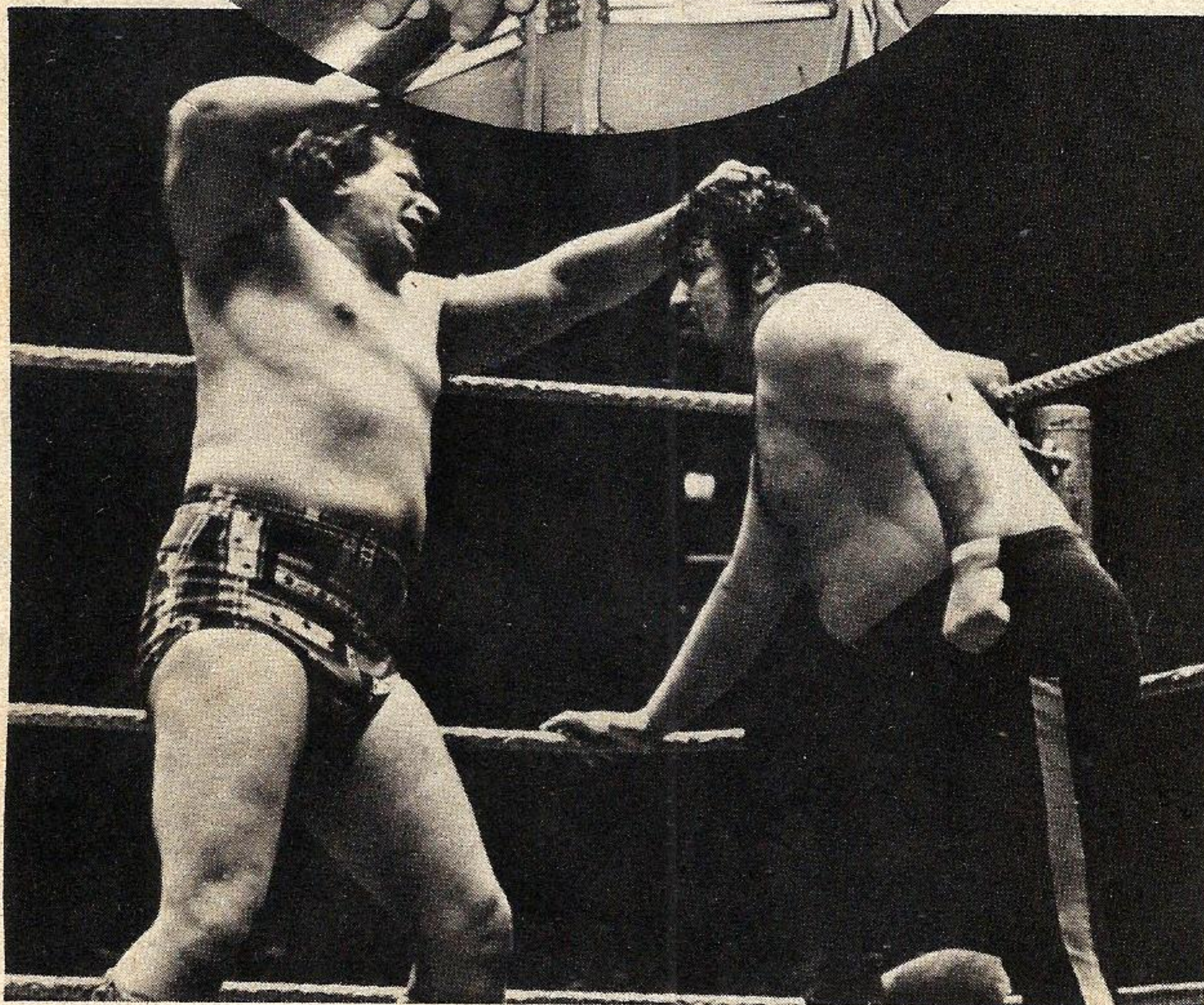
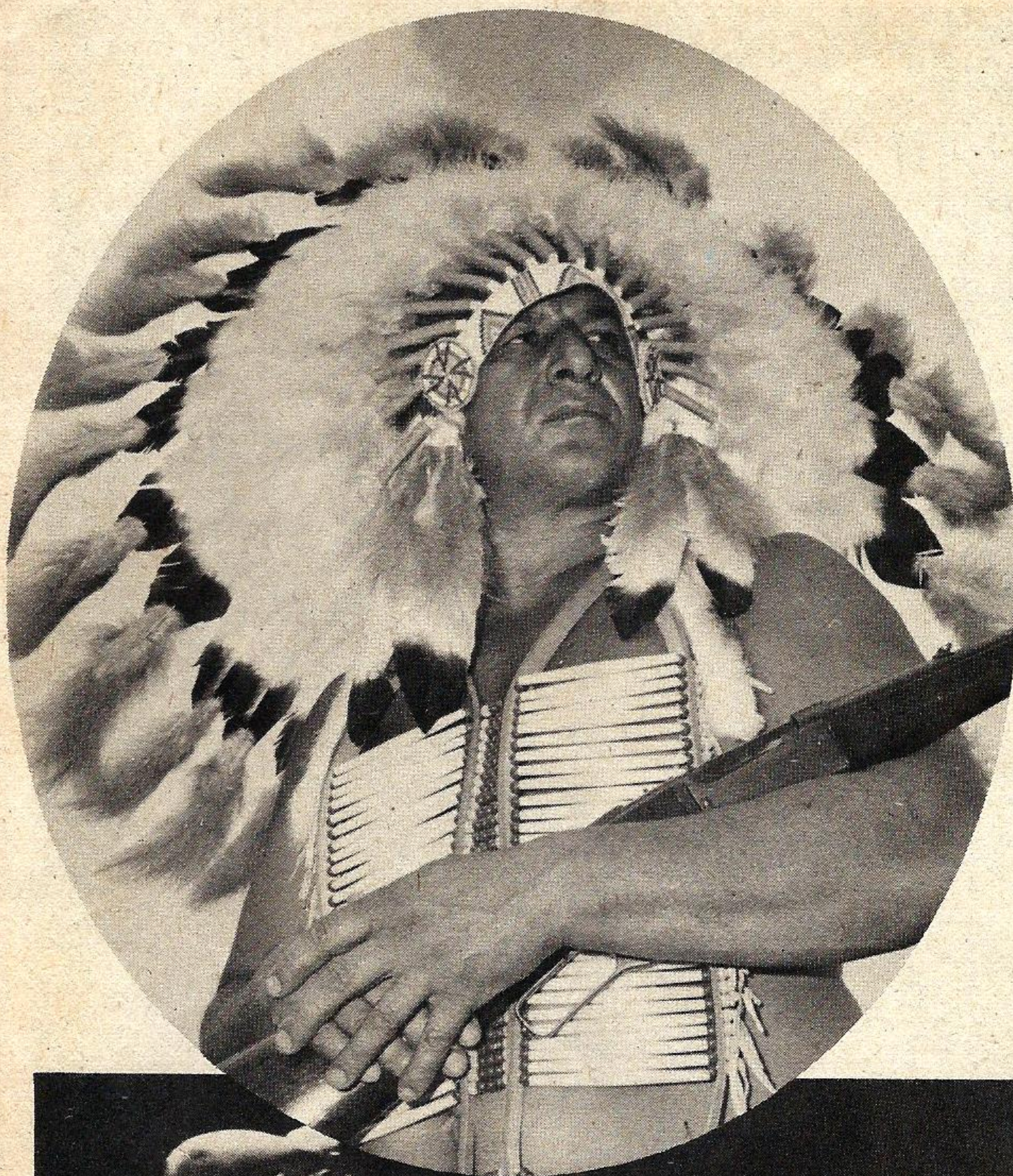
Together, Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril are a great tag

team. No one is more surprised at this fact than the two men themselves. They formed the team out of necessity. Their will to succeed was fused with their determination to rid the area of Bull Ramos and John Studd, the vicious rulebreakers who held the title. (Continued on page 46)

A CHIEF

THE FIRST SPARKLE of moonlight glistened on the pond. All the world seemed at peace. It's the place where a man can stay forever and not feel he's missed a thing.

Nature's quiet was broken by the roar of an engine. A car's headlights pierced the darkening twilight. A car trunk was slammed. The never long enough farewells



Left: Chief Jay Strongbow declares war on hated manager Lou Albano. Above: The despised Freddie Blassie is sent flying by Jay.

He is the noblest of wrestlers. If an ordeal must be suffered for the dignity of the sport, he'll risk all to endure it. The fans worship him. Here is a long overdue testament to the greatness of Chief Jay Strongbow

TRIBUTE TO JAY STRONGBOW

are finally said. Wheels go into motion, kicking up pebbles on the dirt road. The grating is replaced by a whirr when the car gets to the highway. Chief Jay Strongbow puts his foot down heavy on the gas pedal. There are many miles to go until morning.

Most of the world is asleep when Strongbow pulls into an all-night truckstop. "Coffee and a roast beef

family sooner than you must. This haul is worth the extra time I had with my wife and kids."

When the waitress returned, she had the sandwich and two cups of coffee. "The second cup is always on the house. Since you won't be here, I thought I'd give it to you now."

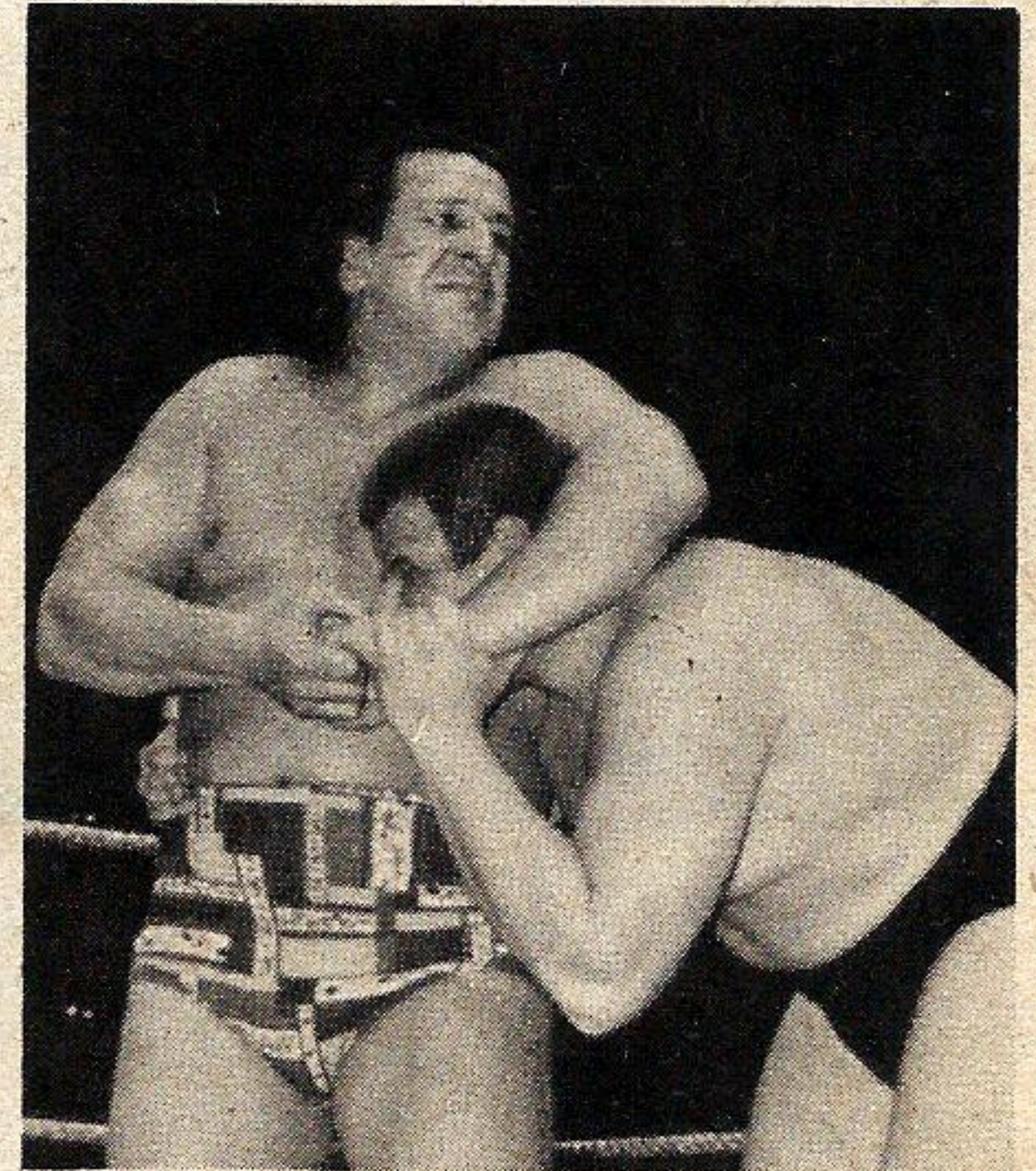
"Thanks a lot!"

"No, thank you. I don't usually get nice guys in here, especially at this time of night. It's good to be reminded there are decent people with families they love. That's worth a free cup of coffee anytime."

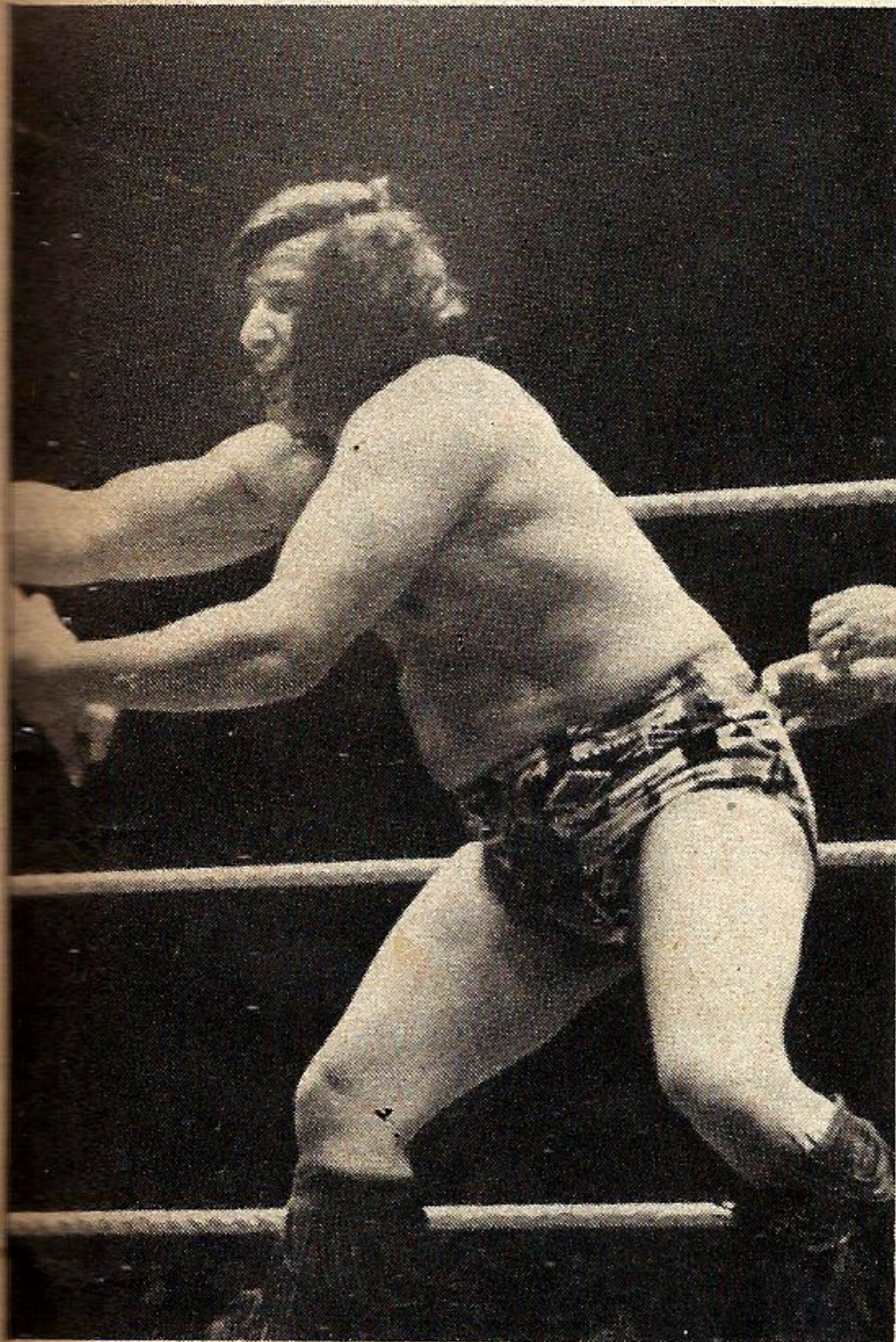
Back on the road, Strongbow smiled as he sipped his first cup. There was another surprise when he discovered the roast beef sandwich was twice as thick as usual. He smiled ruefully after a few bites, realizing there was nothing the waitress could have done to improve truck-stop quality. Still, it's nice to know there are good people all over. It makes the hard times that much easier.

Strongbow was headed for the hard times. Once again, he was leaving his Georgia farm to battle some notorious opponent. Somewhere, the fans called Jay to uphold the sport's honor. Jay came to their aid. He has yet to disappoint.

Chief Jay Strongbow is one of wrestling's noblest men. His virtues are more important than any championship. Few mat kings in history have approached the honor Strongbow commands. He is deservedly beloved by all who know him. He has friends he's never met all over the world.



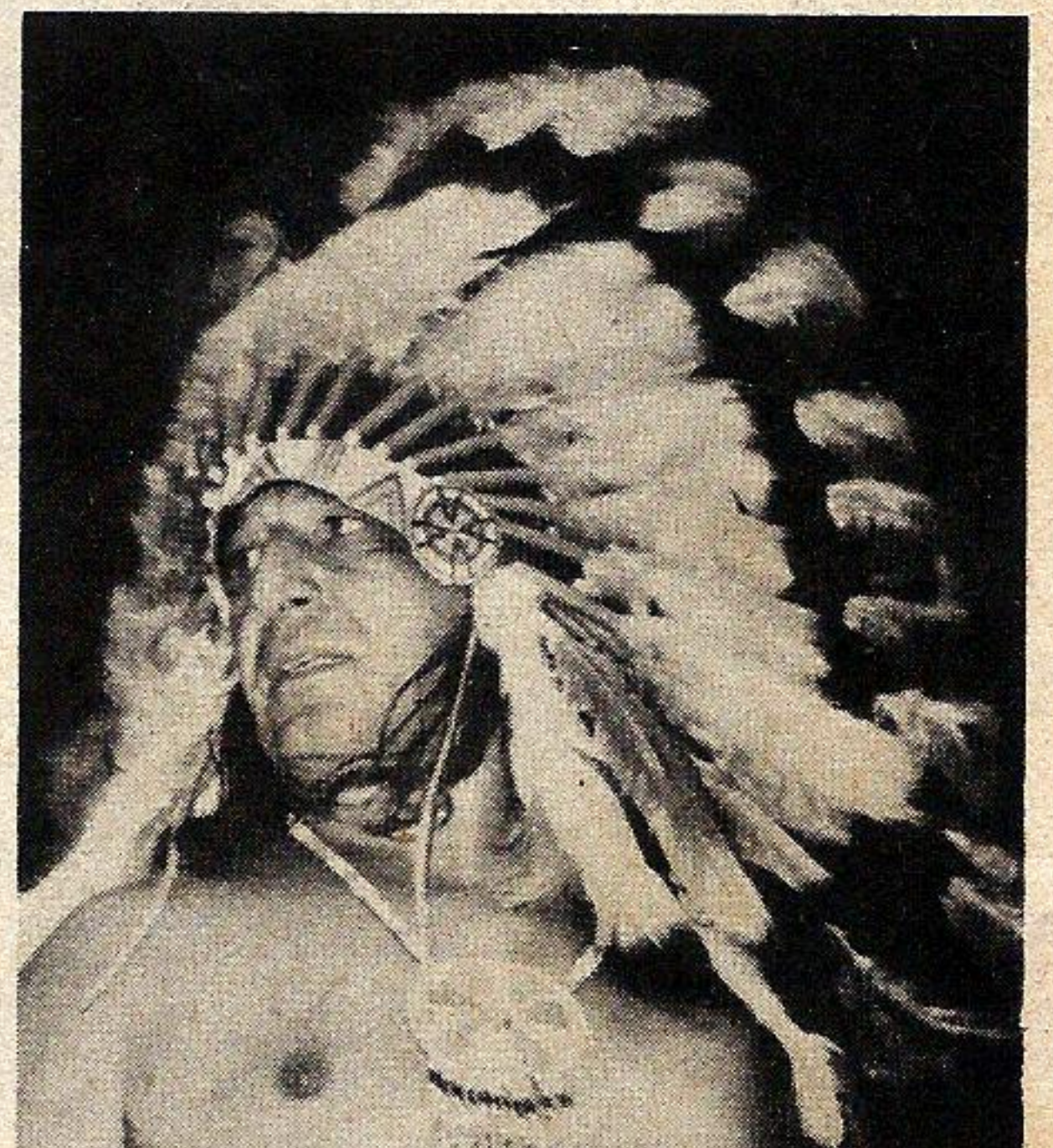
Above: Jay snares dangerous Nikolai Volkoff in a headlock. Below: The headdress worn by Strongbow is known all over the wrestling world.



sandwich to go."

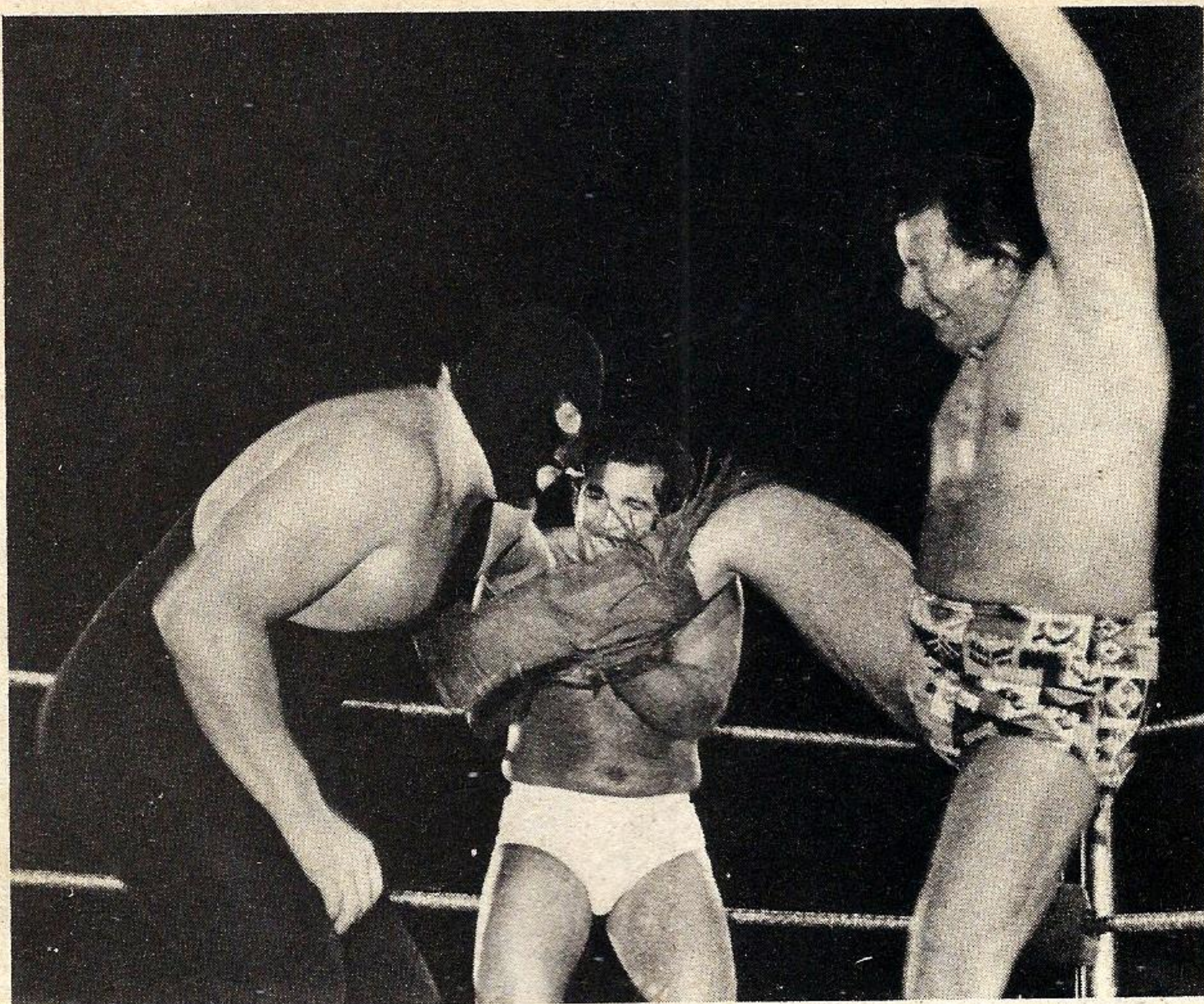
"Why don't you stay for a few minutes," the waitress, a motherly type, asks. "The road will still be there in half an hour. You look like you've been traveling too long."

"I haven't gone far enough," Jay replies. "I have to be in New York by tonight, rested and in top shape. I should have left yesterday morning, but it's hard to leave your

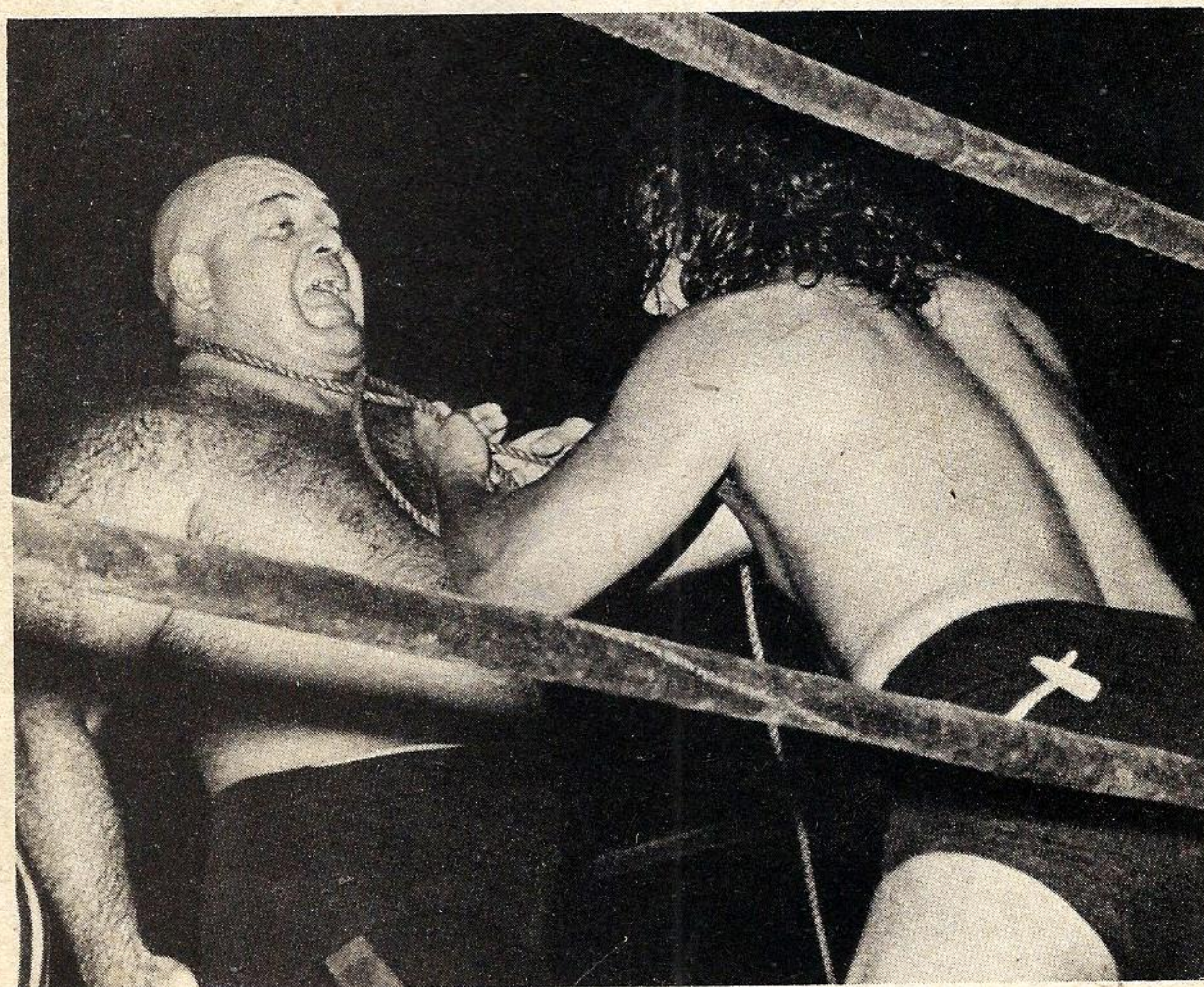


As often happens with men of honor, their fame spreads first among the people before attaining official recognition. Promoters and the press are often the last to know when a man has captured the crowd's heart. This is how it was with Strongbow.

"He's never won a major title!" promoters would sneer, as if a belt could mean more than Strong-



Above: When Strongbow teamed with Billy White Wolf, they were the only pair to make it rough on The Executioners. Below: George "The Animal" Steele's reign of terror is halted by Strongbow's courage and skill. Someone had to stop Steele. Strongbow was the man to do it.



bow's dignity. "Who'd pay to see him when we could hire a champion instead?" The fans would pay!

Finally, the officials of wrestling realized who was the man fans wanted to see. When they asked Jay who he wanted to wrestle,

expecting him to name some pushover to build a reputation, Jay invariably asked for the toughest rulebreaker around. "This is the guy fans want to see beaten. The least I can do is try for them." More often than not, Jay held the fans' banner high.



Above: Jay captures Jim Valiant in a devastating surfboard. The bouts between these two men have found their way into wrestling history.

This is a brutal way to make a living. Strongbow hasn't known an easy match in years. Whenever a ruffian enters the area, Strongbow is always the first to take him on. The others sit and wait, learning the rulebreaker's weaknesses, while Strongbow valiantly battles the unknown. Courage lets him surge forward while the champions stay behind.

"Someone has to do it," Jay explains in a quiet voice, "and I guess I'm the man. The sport demands a man's loyalty. To live up to that, I must take on the tough guys. It's not something a man wants to do, but there's no choice. You either stand as a man or crawl away. I've never crawled."

Jay refuses to talk about his many injuries. To him, that's like a retired soldier showing off his medals. Jay doesn't like to admit there's risk involved in his work. Praise and admiration embarrass this modest man. He'd much rather go about his work and then return home.

The fans wish Jay would never leave. Watching him is one of the great thrills in professional sports. He doesn't have to win; just be there when he's needed.



Above: Even the notorious Stan Stasiak is the victim of Strongbow's famous sleeper hold. It takes a man of great courage to confront Stasiak. Strongbow is the man everyone calls upon. Below: Jay is always happy to pose with a fan, knowing the boy will remember this all his life.



"There's a majesty to the man," Barbara Cahn, a loyal fan, believes. "He comes into the arena and you know there's something special happening. I'd trust Jay with my life. I trust him now with my affection. I know he'll never betray my trust. He cares too much about wrestling."

Another fan, Tom Schweikert, repeats the feeling that Strongbow cares. "He's a man who risks his life for the sport. I've seen him doubleteamed, sneak attacked, battered, and mauled. People say he could be permanently injured if he gets caught in a clawhold again. Yet, he keeps battling to the best of his ability. He doesn't care about the odds, only the results. Wrestling is lucky to have him. This would be a much uglier sport if Jay wasn't around."

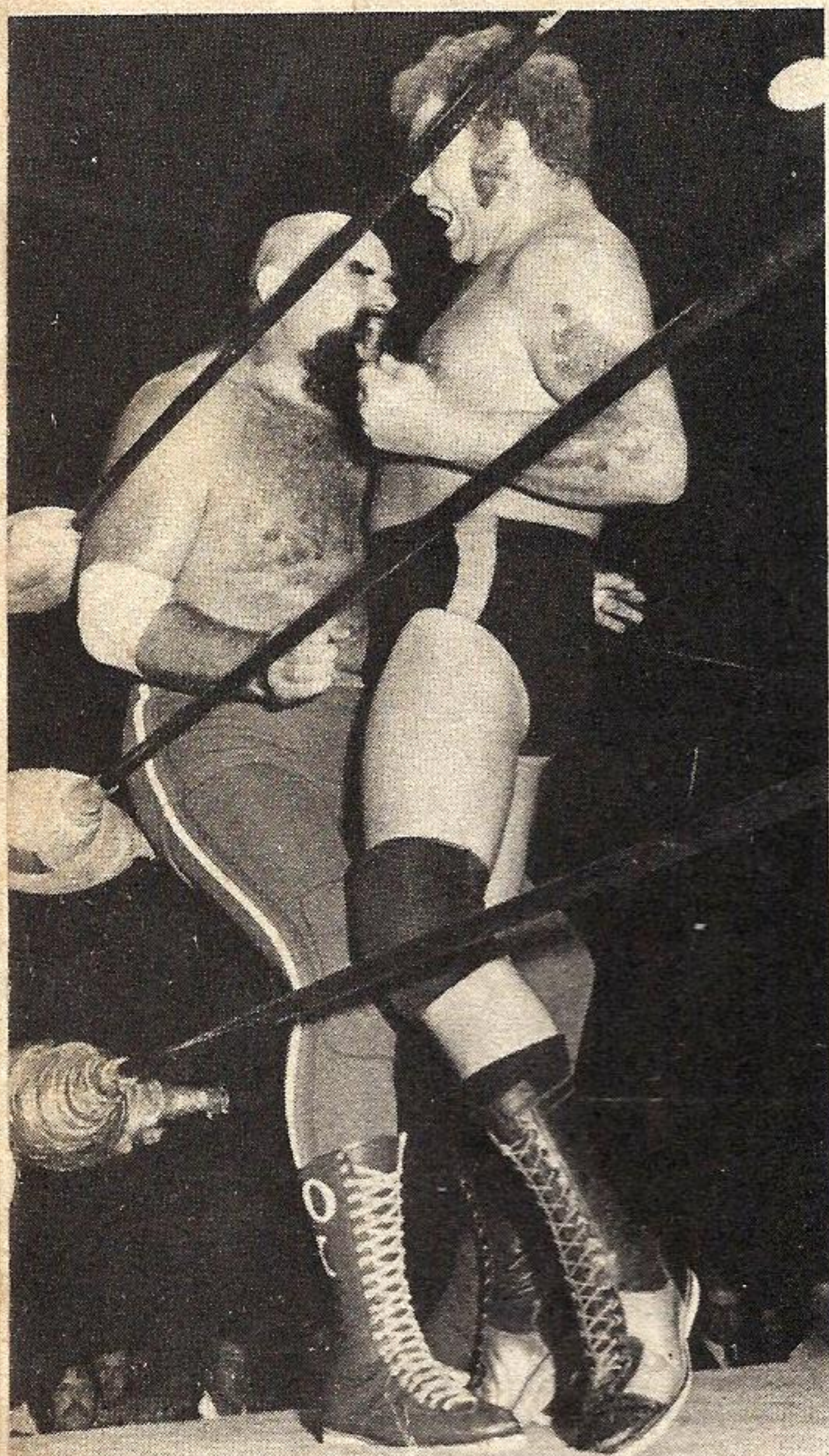
No one can debate that. Strongbow's courage and concern have helped where they are needed most. Hundreds of wrestlers owe their sound bodies to Strongbow, the man who brings the rulebreakers to bay. The carnage that would have occurred without Strongbow's intervention is horrible to think about.

It is almost impossible to praise Strongbow to his face. The man gets embarrassed, tries to say everyone makes the same contributions, and reminds people of others' courage.

Also, it's not easy to write about Strongbow's contributions. There are no championships one can mention, none of the usual honors great wrestlers earn. His only reward is the love in a fan's eyes. You can't write that down on a man's record.

Yet, the world doesn't need to be told of Strongbow's greatness. It's evident in everything he does. No belt could mean more than the name Chief Jay Strongbow.

Jay's reputation is the greatest honor of all. Wrestling is lucky to have him to admire, depend upon, and love. □



Harley has his vicious opponent, Ox Baker, caught in a corner. On this night, Race wrestled brilliantly.

Ox Baker believes he once defeated Harley Race for the NWA title but had the belt stolen from him. Baker got another chance at Race. This time, Ox can't hide behind excuses

THE ONLY PASSENGER awake on the plane was Harley Race. It would be 4 a.m. when the plane set down in Houston airport. The other passengers were trying to get as much sleep as possible. Harley couldn't relax. There was still a score unsettled.

The cabin was dark except for a light in the rear. The stewardesses were whispering, probably wishing they could be

asleep like the passengers. Harley walked toward the light, not really feeling like talking, but not wanting to be alone either.

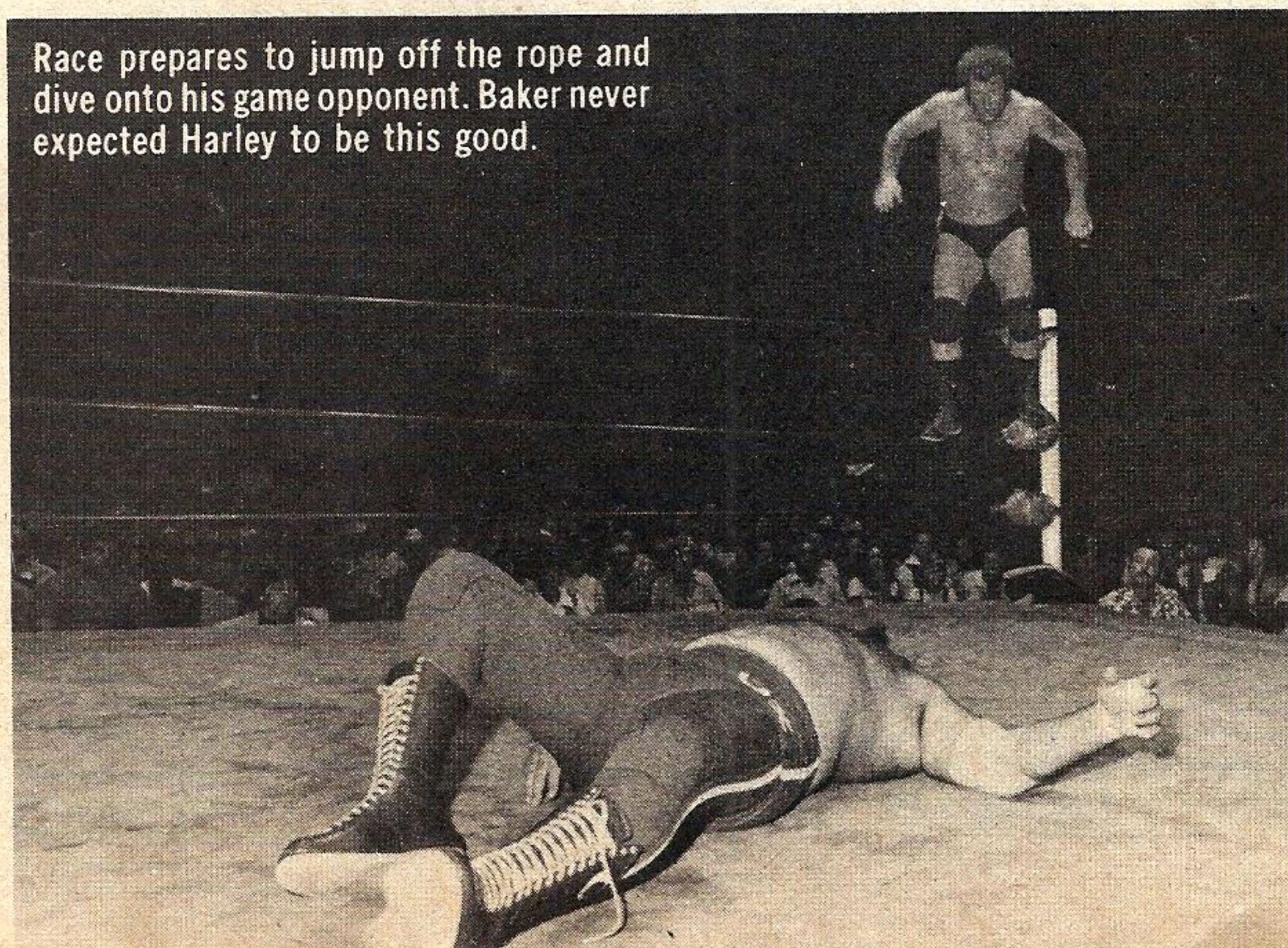
"Anything we can do for you, sir?" one stewardess asked. At any other time, Harley would have enjoyed her smile.

"No, I'm just restless."

Whatever the stewardesses were talking about, it wasn't something they wanted a

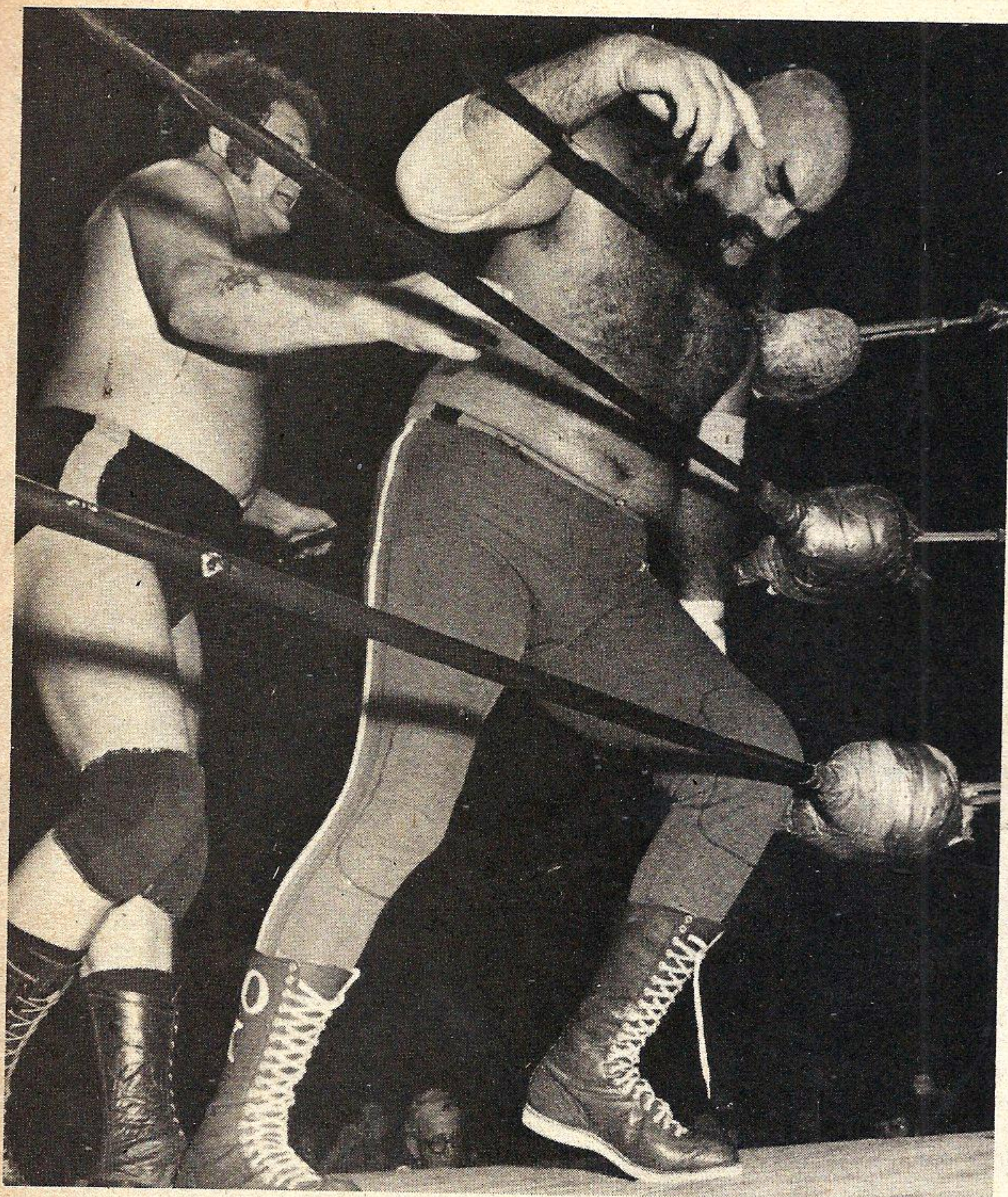
NEVER UNDERE HAI

Race prepares to jump off the rope and dive onto his game opponent. Baker never expected Harley to be this good.

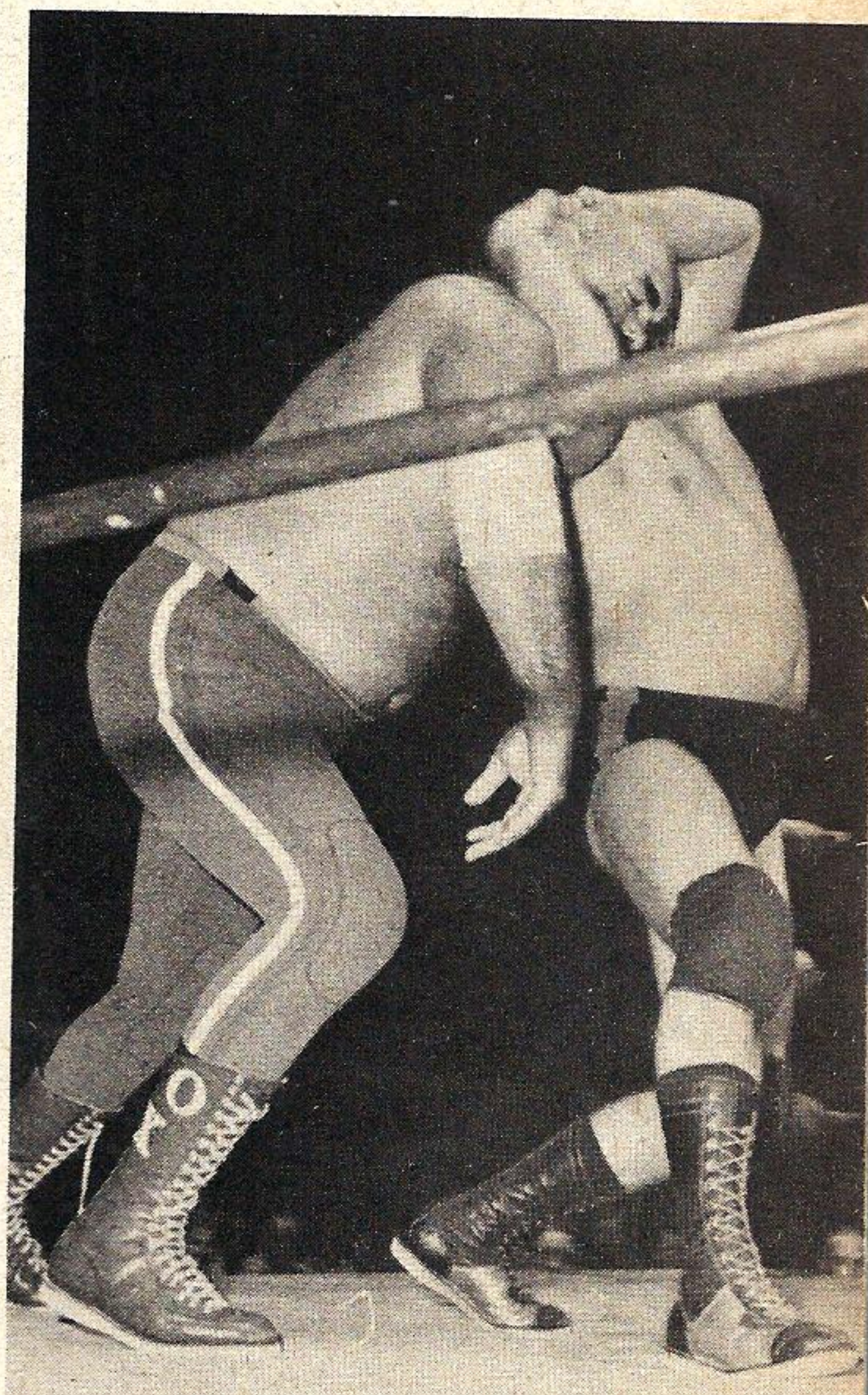


passenger to hear. The little alcove fell uncomfortably silent.

"Maybe I'll have a cup of coffee," Harley said, not really wanting it. At least the silence was broken. The stewardess poured him a cup. He didn't take cream and sugar. Harley always



Baker could just not do anything to stop Race. Harley got him along the ropes (left) during much of the match. Race's headlock totally confused Ox (below).



STIMMATE HARLEY RACE

drinks his coffee black in front of strangers. When the silence returned, Harley walked back to his seat. The whispers of resumed conversation could be heard as he returned.

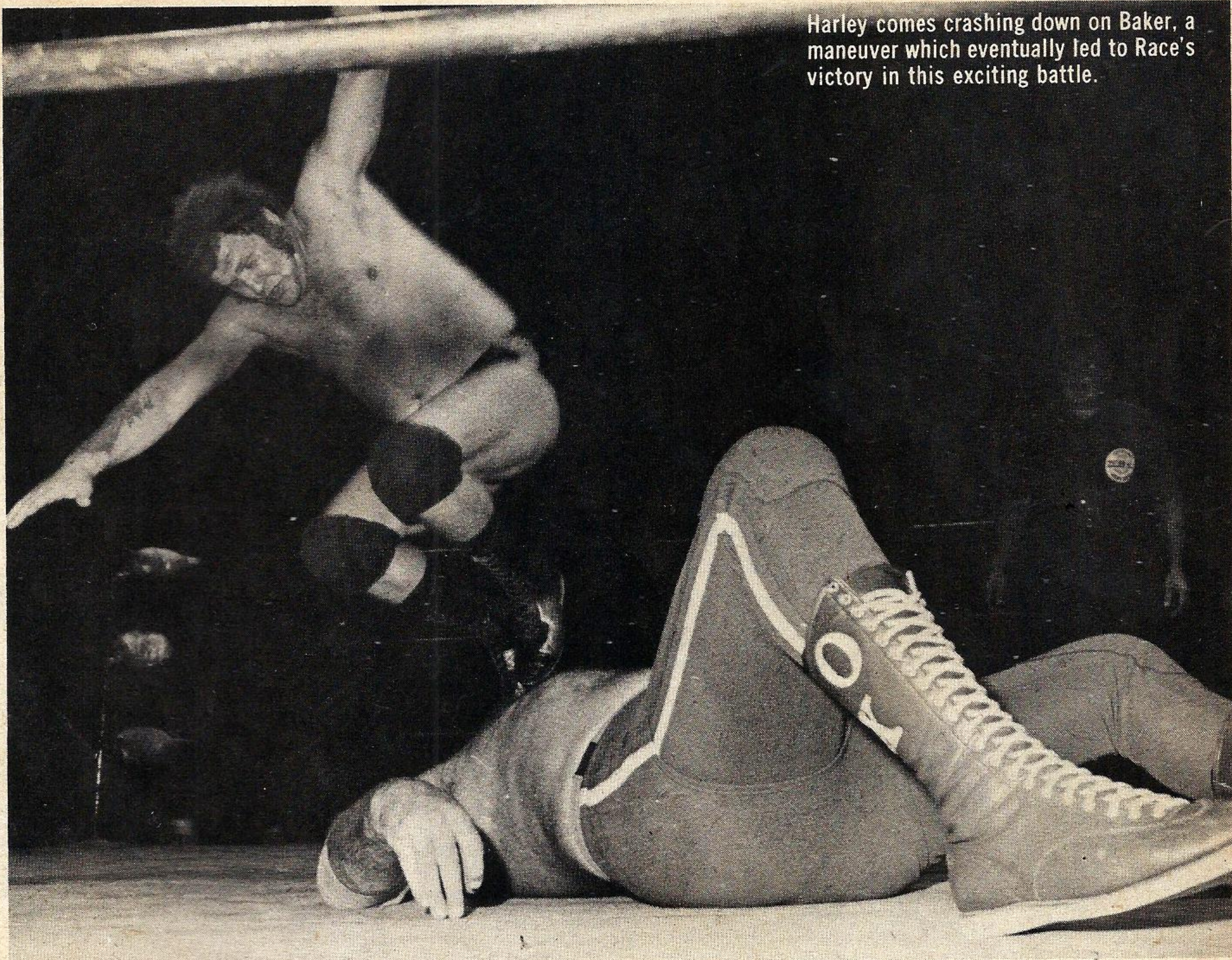
The plane finally set down. Harley took a cab to his motel.

He tried to get some sleep, but the coffee wouldn't let him. So he stared into the darkness, not sure whether it would be better to remember or forget.

Ox Baker.

It's a stupid name, Harley thought, for the ugliest slime in

wrestling. Ever since their last match, that name has haunted Race. In magazines, on television, Baker claims to have been robbed of the NWA title after defeating Race. Harley says he wasn't defeated; Baker was disqualified for using illegal



Harley comes crashing down on Baker, a maneuver which eventually led to Race's victory in this exciting battle.

tactics. Race's title reign had been under a shadow ever since.

Now came the rematch. Race looked at his watch. The luminous hands read 5:48. The confrontation was 16 hours away. It would have to be one of the greatest victories of Race's career. Harley's reputation depended on it. Anything less would be a disaster.

Less than 20 miles away, Ox Baker slept like a baby. There were no worries to disturb his rest, no nightmares intruding on his slumber. He was the most confident man around. After all, hadn't he defeated Race once before? This would be easier than anything he'd ever do again. Why worry about it?

The next morning, Baker ate a hearty breakfast. Harley picked at his, leaving most of it uneaten. Baker did a little

roadwork, relaxed around the house, took in an afternoon movie, and enjoyed a fine steak dinner. Harley paced around his motel room like a caged beast. He ignored lunch and ate a hamburger and salad for dinner. Harley didn't notice the small cuts where his nails dug into his palms.

Finally, it came time to go to the arena. Baker hummed as he drove. Harley sat in the back of a cab, pointedly ignoring the driver's attempts at conversation. Race kept trying not to think of the clicking of the meter as tolling his doom. Worried men look too hard for omens.

Entering his dressing room, Ox Baker announced, "Make way for the new champion, peasants! When this evening is over, I'll own the NWA belt! You'll be begging me for title

matches. Well, I'll take you all. Look forward to a big payday, losers. When Baker owns the gravy train, everybody rides!"

Harley entered quietly, more like a janitor than champion of the world. Some say his hand trembled as he took out his wrestling gear. Others claim his clothes were soaked with sweat. Everyone agrees it took him much longer than necessary to put the belt around his waist.

Then came the moment of truth. Baker almost ran into the arena, resembling a child let loose in an amusement park. He couldn't wait. He impatiently loosened up in his corner as Race purposefully entered the arena.

"Come and get it!" Baker screamed at Race. Harley said nothing.

Ox pawed in his corner,

waiting for the bell to sound. Harley stood ramrod straight. The bell rang. Baker raced toward what he thought would be an easy victory. He quickly learned his mistake.

Before Baker knew what was happening, Harley had him in a perfectly executed armlock. Race forced his victim to the canvas. Baker's shock was plain upon his face. He managed to escape by luck as much as skill.

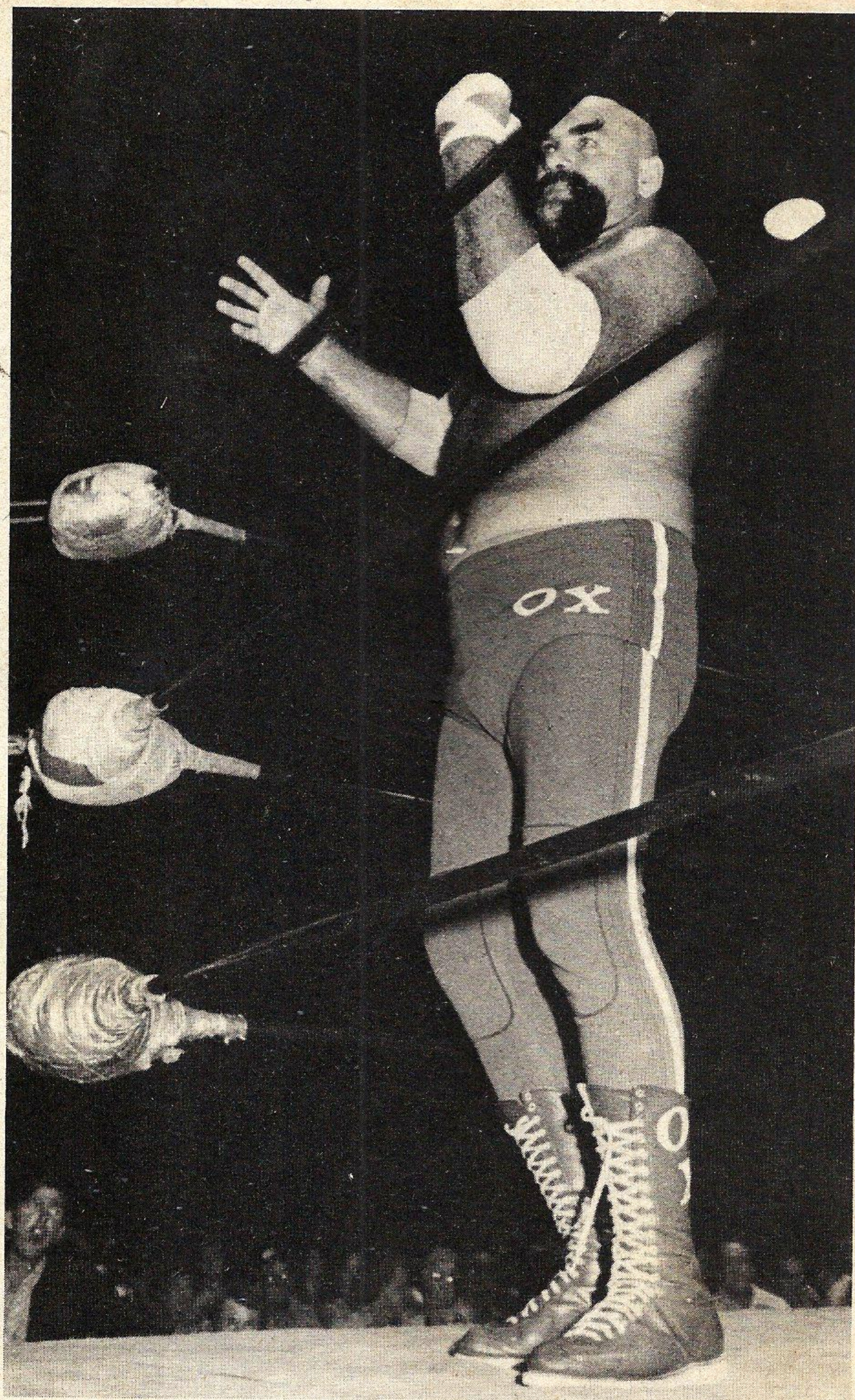
Once free, Baker fooled himself into thinking it was only a fluke. Race could never do it again. Ox was partially correct. The charging grappler found himself caught in a leglock. This time, Baker risked a broken leg to escape.

The rest must have seemed like a nightmare to Baker. Harley was all over him, a whirlwind of strength and agility. Ox didn't even consider a counterattack; all he wanted to do was to defend himself. The match was 10 minutes old before Baker could mount a decent assault. In less than 45 seconds, Harley had Ox back on the defensive.

For almost half an hour, Race dominated the action. Baker managed a few good moments, only to have them quickly turn to Harley's advantage. Race was a symphony of wrestling skills, awesome in his majesty. Baker was doomed. And he knew it.

Disgusted, angry, hobbled, and exhausted, Baker leaped through the ropes and headed back to the dressing room. Race watched him go, not a single emotion written on his face. He had done what had to be done. He was too relieved to be delighted. All he wanted was some place to rest.

The press waited outside Race's dressing room. They were expecting a speech of vindication, Race proclaiming



Before the match, Ox was certain that he was going to win the NWA belt on this particular night. He thought there was no way Harley Race could ever beat him. After the match he learned never to underestimate Race again!

his greatness in proving his superiority over Baker. Instead, Harley simply nodded at the gathering, asked for any questions. When asked, he said he felt good but tired. He'd leave the talking to Baker. He didn't think Baker would have much to say, though. For the first time

that night, Harley smiled.

Baker didn't say anything. In fact, he broke a photographer's camera rushing past the crowd. This was not the night to ask him anything.

On the plane to his next battle, Harley slept peacefully. □



MASCARAS !!!

Another Stunning
WWWF Triumph

IF BORN A century ago, Stan Stasiak would have been a hired gun. When a land baron wanted the decent folk run off, someone like Stasiak was given \$500 and a bottle of whiskey. The law abiding settlers would either be

dead or they would have moved within a week.

Today, Stasiak is known throughout wrestling as the guy to get when you want someone knocked off. Many top scientific wrestlers have ended their

careers in matches against Stasiak. The man is an expert assassin, maiming and crippling with professional assurance. When Stasiak really goes after someone, it can be the most terrifying sight in the world.

It takes true wrestling genius to defeat Stan Stasiak. Few men have succeeded, and many have never recovered from their failure. Mil Mascaras took the risk. His success will be forever remembered in wrestling history!

There is no arena too small nor any opponent too insignificant for Stasiak. He'll mangle anybody. All it takes is money. Stan cripples for profit, not pleasure. "I don't like seeing people hurt," Stasiak claims, "but it doesn't bother me very much, either. When I get to the bank, it doesn't bother me at all."

No one was too surprised when it was announced Mascaras had to wrestle Stasiak before Graham. Nor did anyone have to guess who was responsible for this situation. Graham twisted a few arms to make this happen.

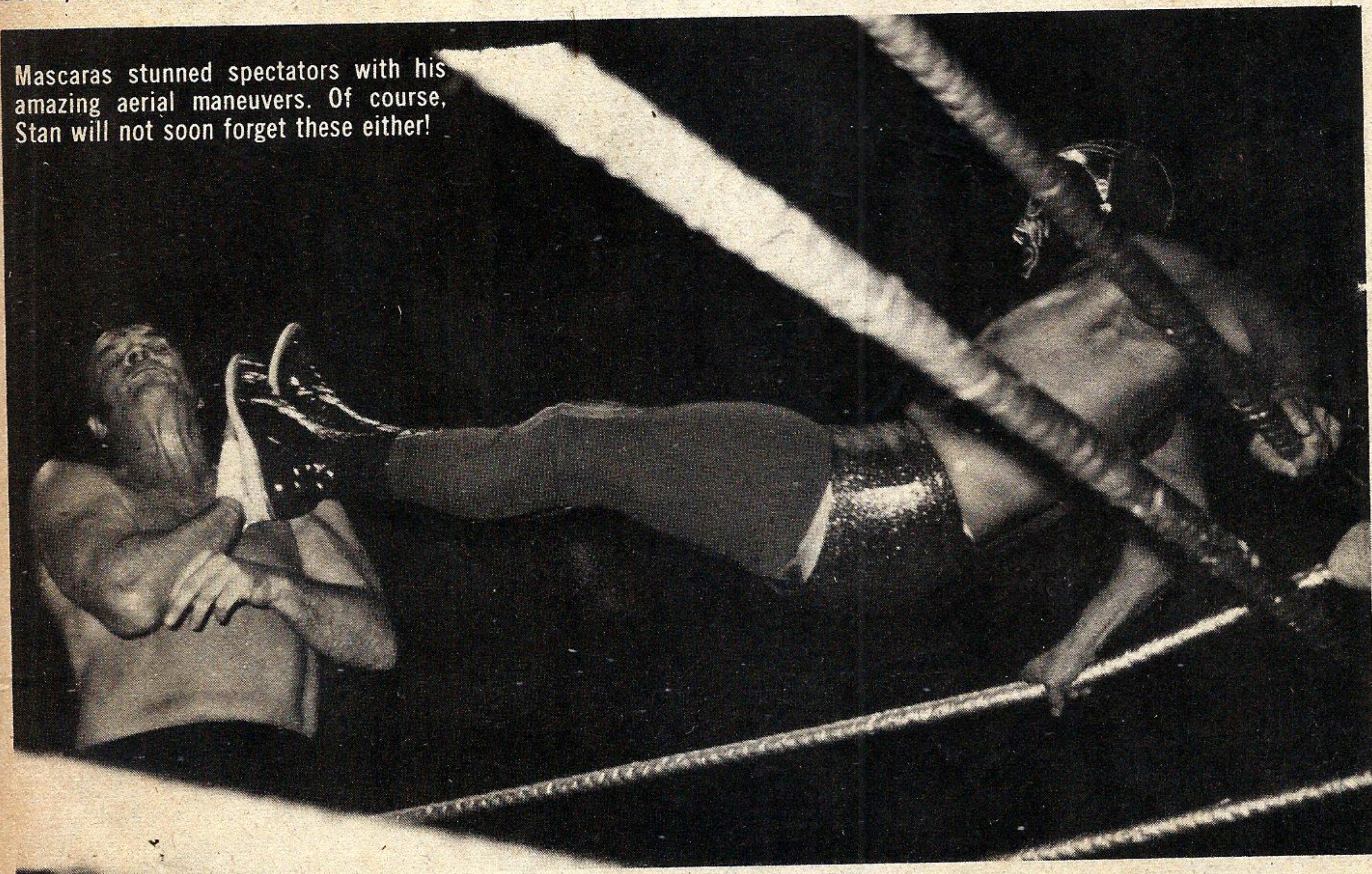
Nobody likes to wrestle Stasiak. Nobody ever wanted to go against the hired gun. But

Mil just to survive.

The night of the match, Mascaras appeared calm and collected. This man is a professional. He's been to the wars before, and he knows what to expect. Assured by his skill, Mil readied himself to confront his next opponent.

"I'm only nervous," he

Mascaras stunned spectators with his amazing aerial maneuvers. Of course, Stan will not soon forget these either!



Stasiak is the man to call if you want someone removed. Superstar Billy Graham, WWWF champion, knows this very well. It's no coincidence Stasiak's appearance closely followed Mil Mascaras' championship challenge. The best way for Graham to avoid Mascaras is to have Stasiak put the masked mat star in the hospital. That's a challenge Stasiak could really enjoy.

there were times when a man can't run. Mil Mascaras doesn't run. He faced Stan Stasiak.

Almost immediately, this battle became the most important bout in the WWWF. Wrestlers, promoters, reporters and fans struggled to get tickets. Everyone knew Stasiak was there not to win, but to cripple. Mascaras had to win, or else he would have to forfeit his title shot. It would be hard enough for

explained, "when I have to do something I know nothing about. I'm confident in wrestling. I feel tension, but it's good. Every sense is alive. Tension marshalls your energy. When I lose that, it will be time to retire.

"Stasiak can be beaten. It won't be easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is. I've watched films, talked to friends, studied the man's strategies. There's nothing else I can do but wrestle

my best. I'm ready. The only time to worry is if you're not prepared."

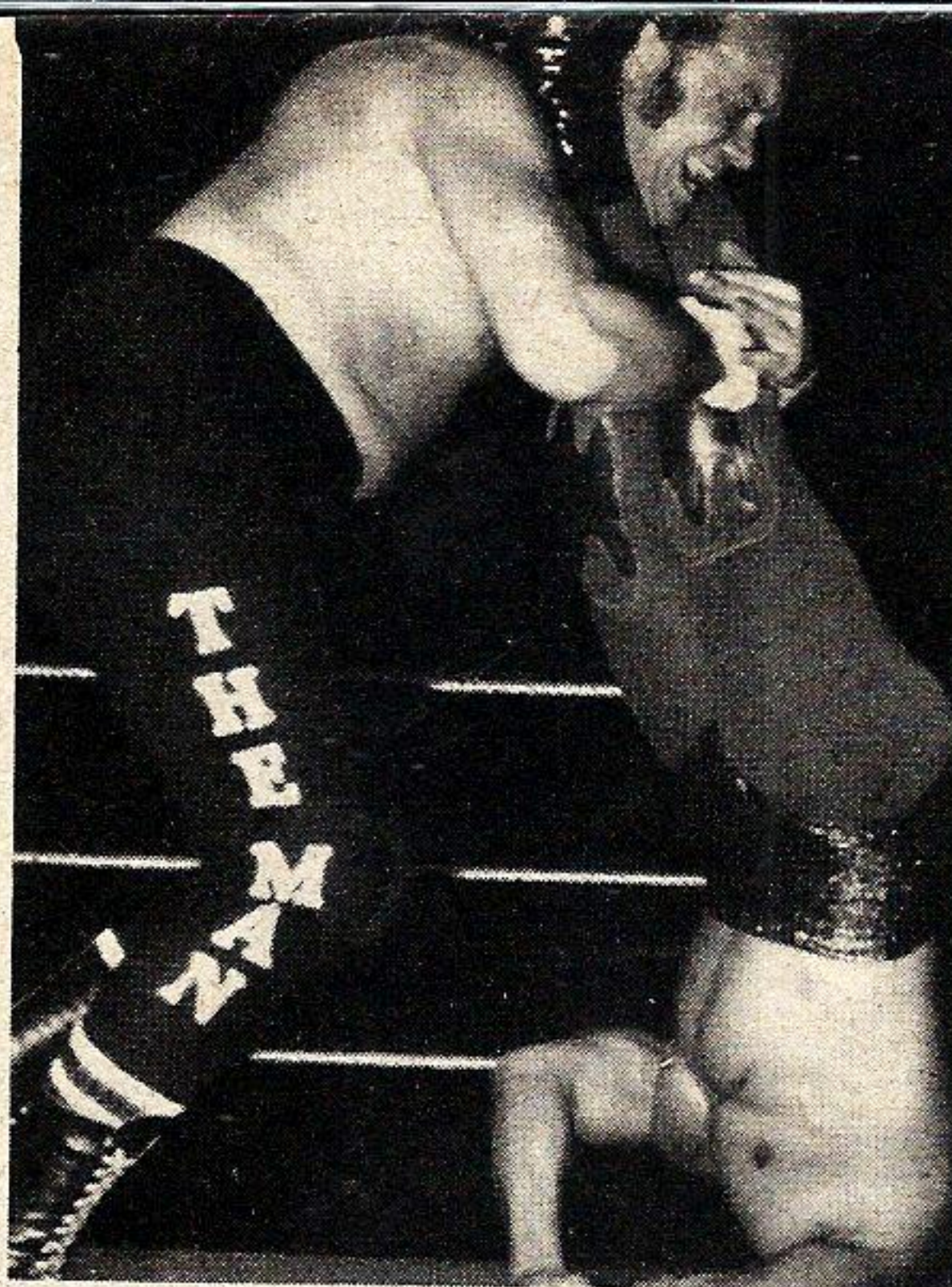
Mil isn't even bothered by the fact Stasiak has been summoned just to do Graham's dirty work.

"It would be stupid," Mil believes, "to expect wrestling to be free of men like Stasiak. There's a lot of money involved in a championship. When that happens, people do anything to keep the title. Someone is always ready to fill the need. That's the way Stasiak earns his living. If you don't want to go against men like Stasiak, you shouldn't be a professional wrestler."

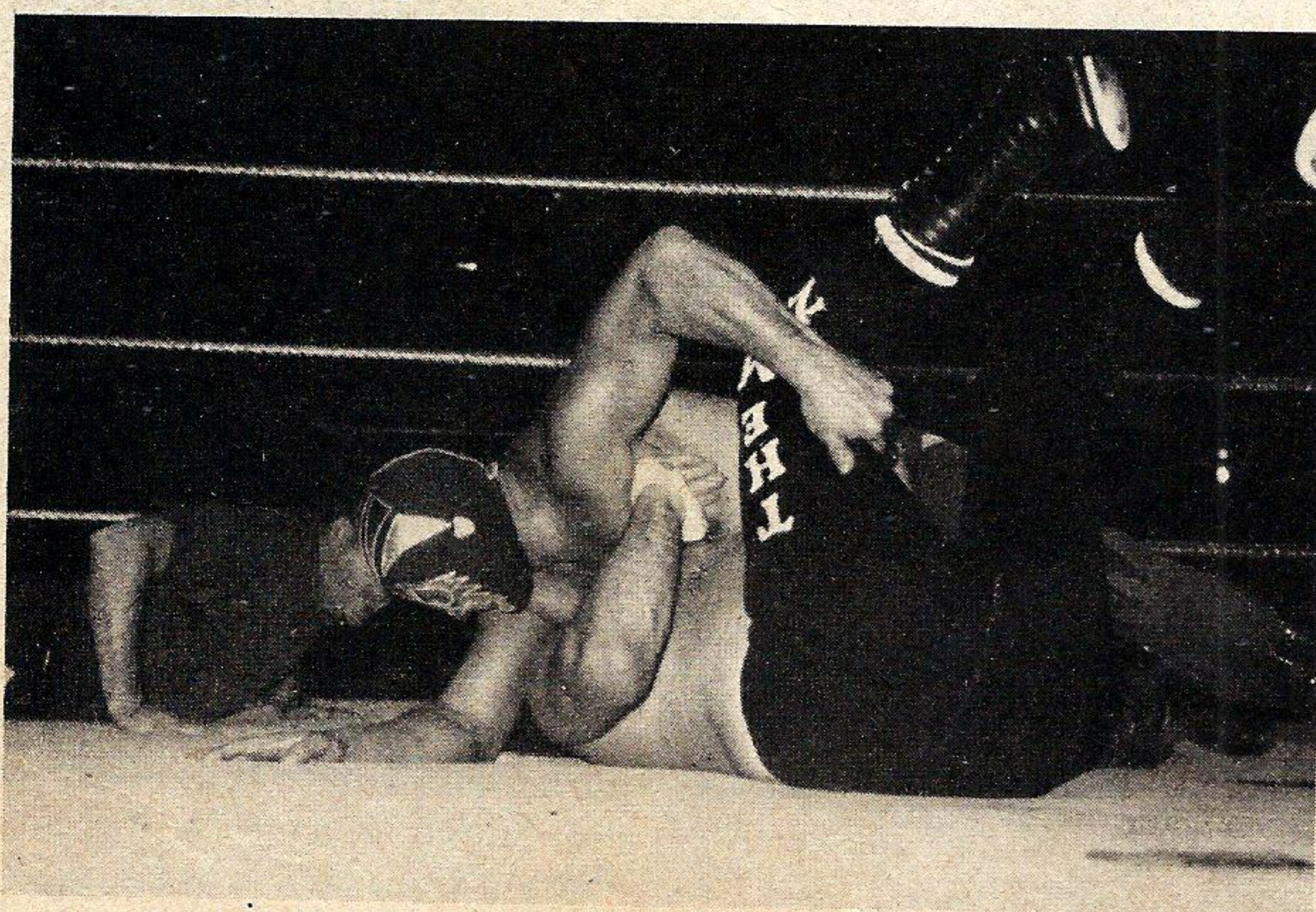
There'll be no surprises tonight. The better man will win."

Stasiak was a study in bravado before the match. Strutting around, Stan proclaimed his greatness, promising to destroy Mascaras. One wondered if the lights were turned out, would Stasiak still glow from his blazing ego? Yet, it was impossible to call Stasiak a liar. When he spoke of the many men he crippled, everyone knew it was the truth.

Above: In a desperate move, Stasiak tries to choke Mascaras. However, Mil will break free from this just a few moments later. Below: Mascaras has Stasiak all tied up, almost ready for the pin—until Stasiak manages to get out just in time. Mascaras did magnificently on this night.



Early in the match, the battle becomes a test of skill for both men (above). Later, however, Stan will start breaking rules.



Soon enough, the two men found themselves staring at each other from across the ring. The tension could be cut with a knife. Everyone felt it. Even the ring announcer was strangely subdued, making his introductions quickly and then leaving. The bell was then rung almost instantly, as if the wait was too hard to endure. The wrestlers felt it. They rushed towards each other.

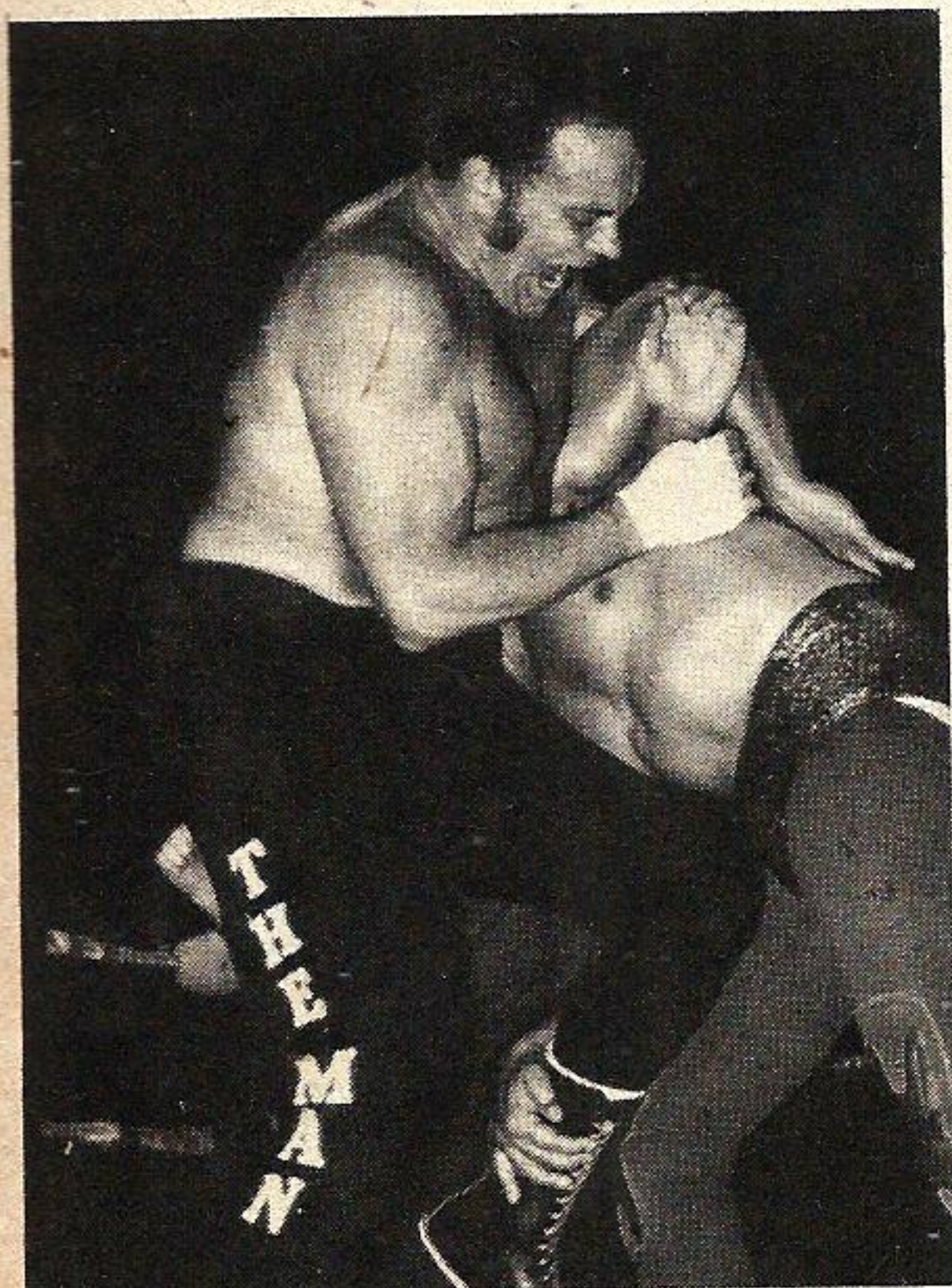
From that moment on, it was one of the great battles in wrestling history. Each man struggled throughout to dominate. Mascaras is a wrestler who must establish a fast, elusive, cobra-quick style. Stasiak is slower, depending upon his incredible strength and size. Stan had to contain Mascaras while Mil had to avoid his foe's clutches. There was a clash of styles as well as men.

It was the kind of match everyone could enjoy. For the new fans, there was action and thrills every second. The knowledgeable observers were awed by the brilliant execution and strategies of the men. This was a war of brains as well as brawn, each man constantly thinking of ways to get the advantage. All of this was underlined by the terror that Stasiak was trying to cripple his foe.

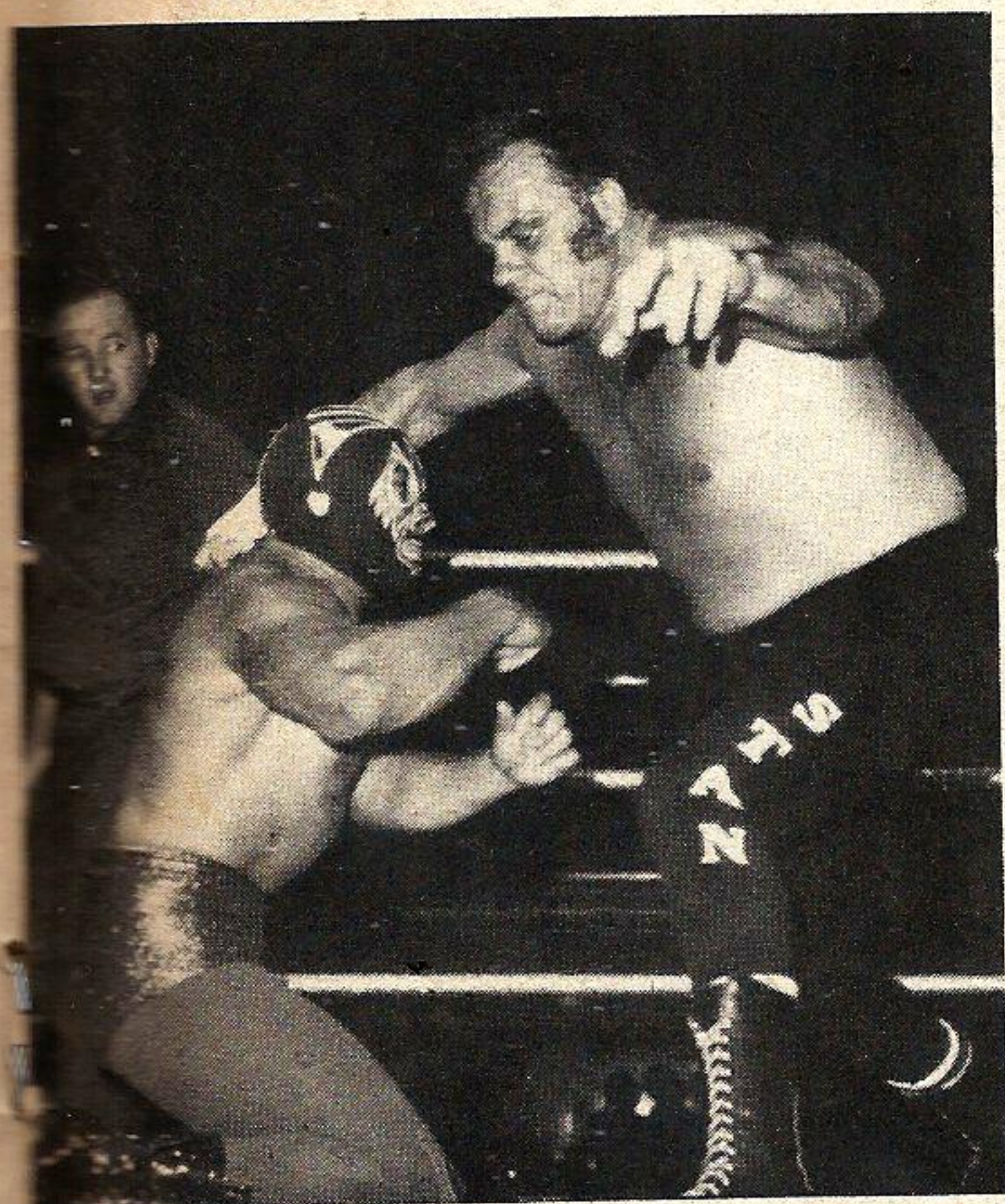
For more than 15 minutes, it was a controlled war of nerves. Stan saw the time running out. Mascaras would have to be crippled now or never. Risks would have to be taken. If he had to chance a disqualification, so be it.

With savage swiftness, Stasiak attempted to kick Mascaras in the groin. Fortunately, Mil managed to back away just enough so the boot only caught the inside of Mil's thighs. The observant referee saw it, however, and

Stasiak puts a painful nervehold on Mil, forcing the masked star to scream in extreme agony!



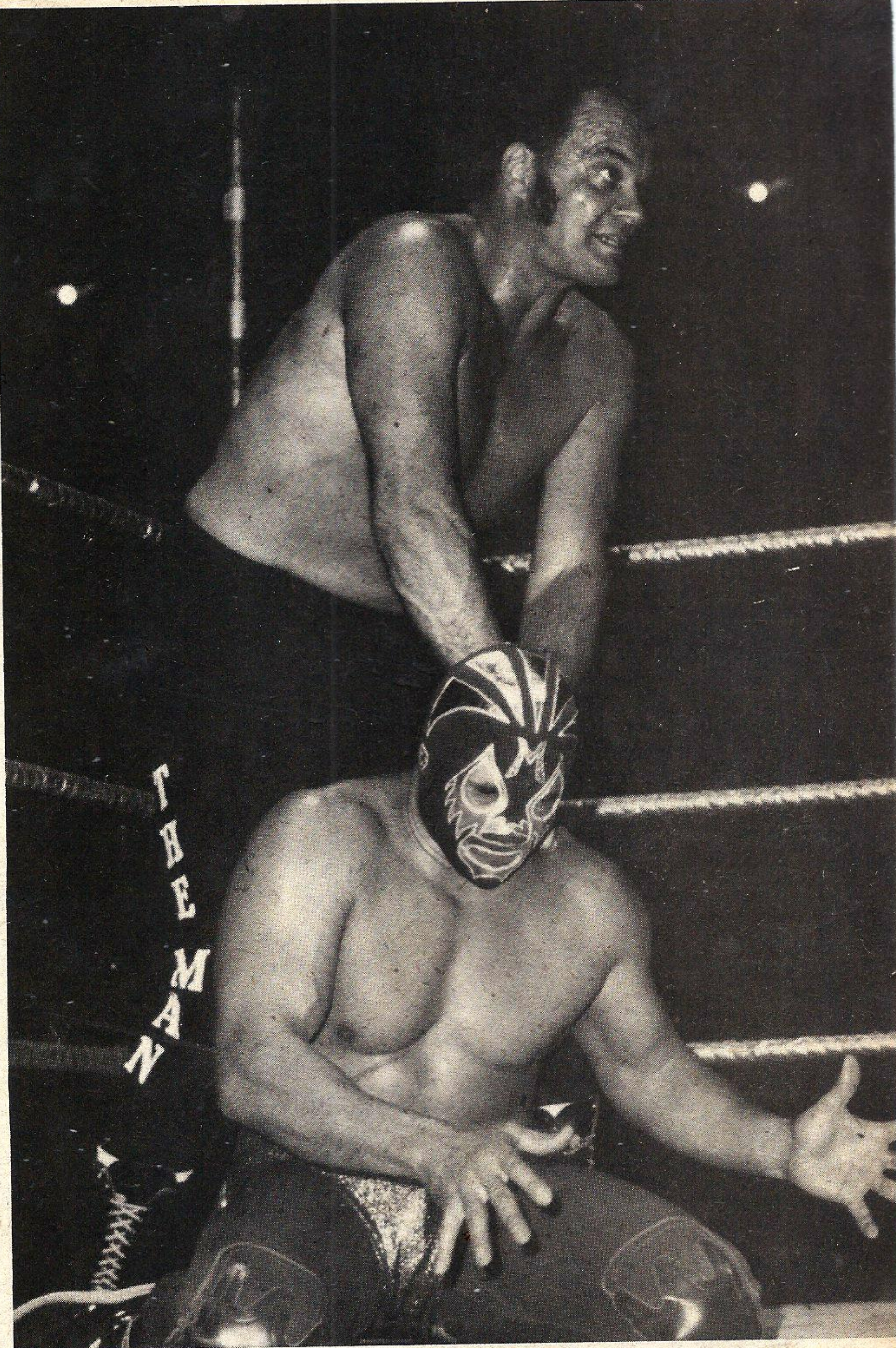
Stasiak is a study in determination (above) and cruelty (below) during those moments in the match when he was in charge. Stan's cheating finally led to his disqualification.



immediately disqualified Stasiak. Mil had won the match.

Stasiak tried to protest, but he soon gave that up. He had failed. Mascaras stood tall and proud before him. Even in the Old West, there were times when hired guns didn't survive the showdown.

The crowd was on its feet, jubilant over Mil's victory. The

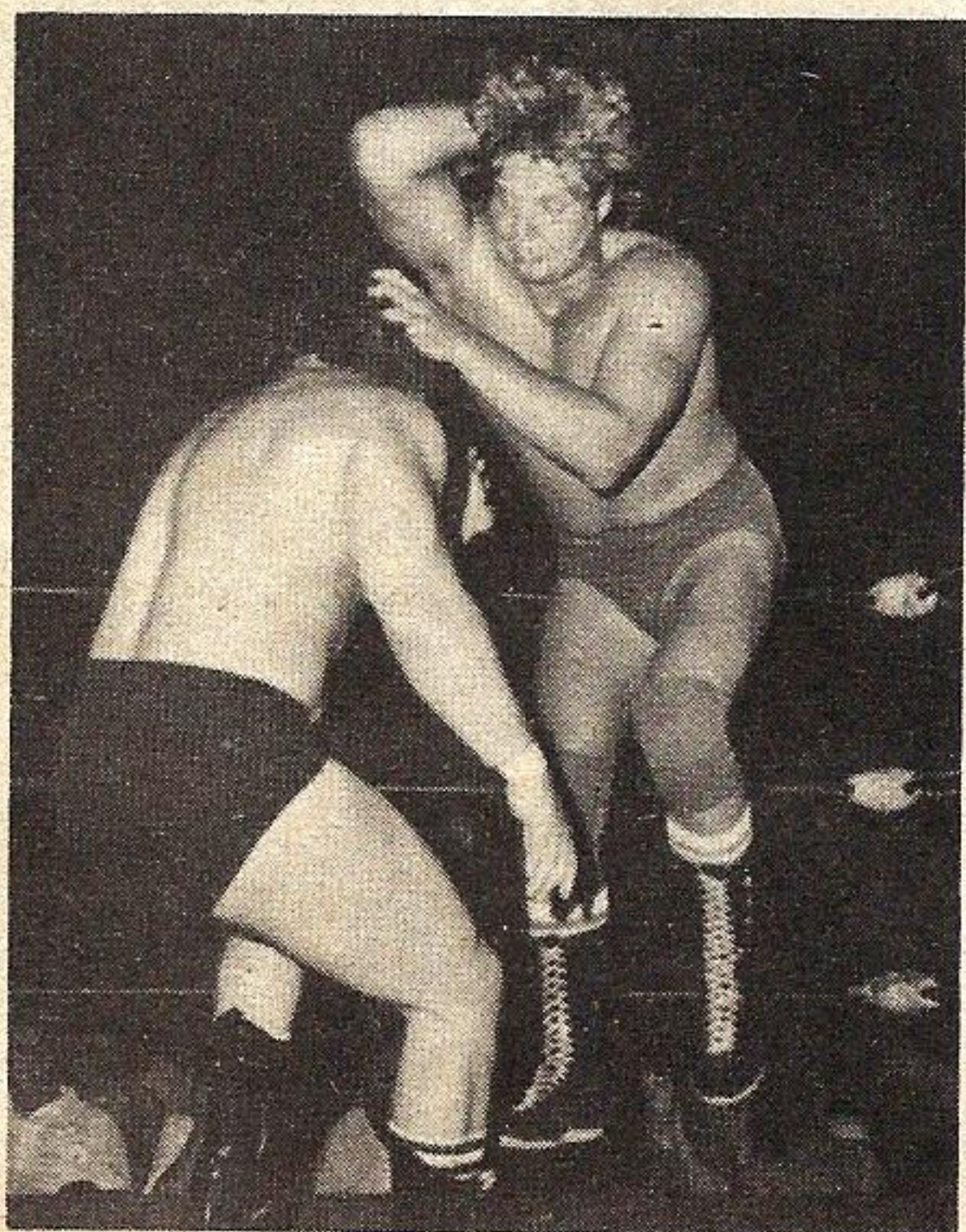
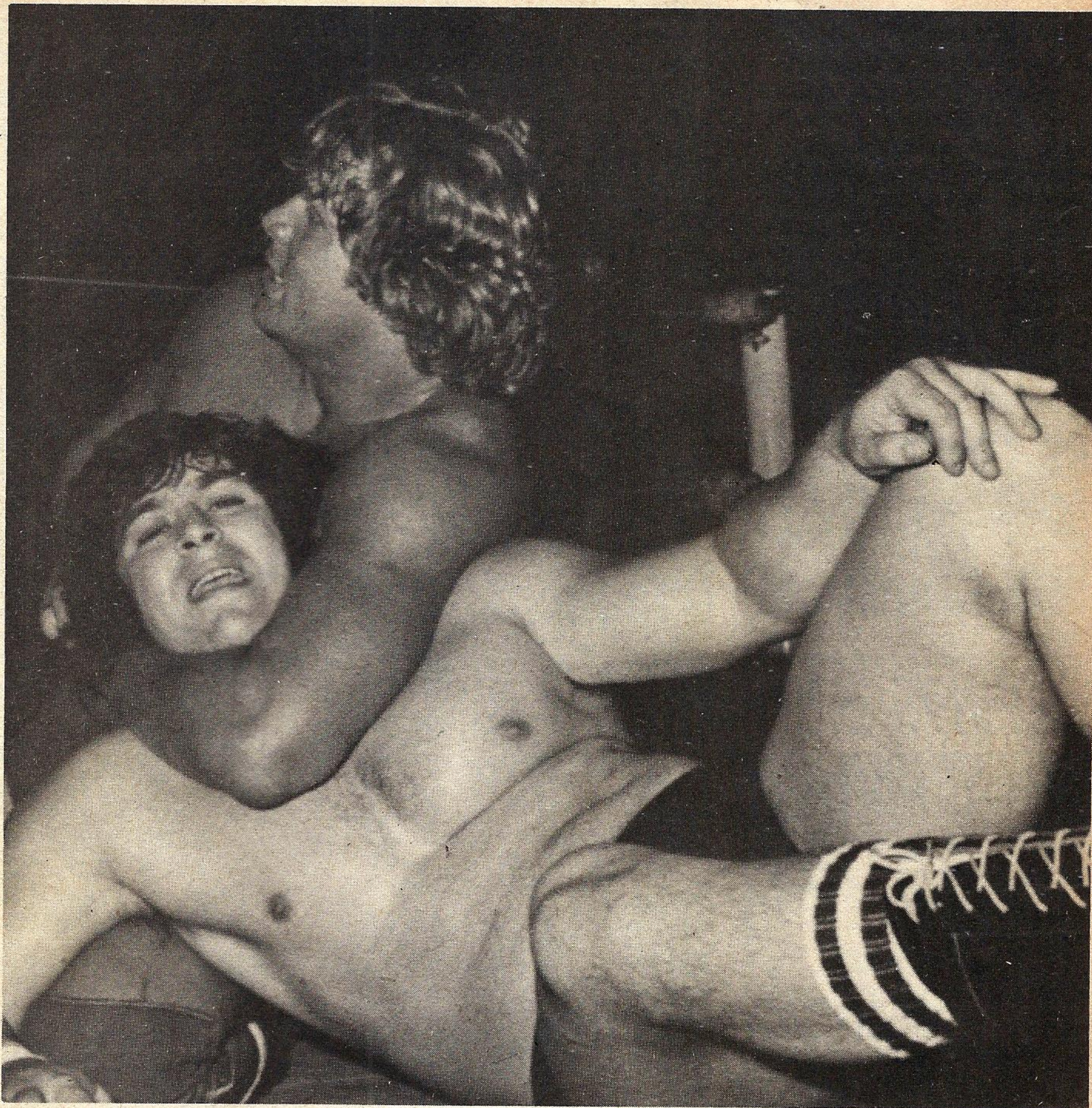


shouts were louder than anyone could ever remember. Mil's whole body communicated his happiness.

Stasiak didn't seem to hear or see anything as he stormed back to the dressing room. He had failed to add Mascaras to his list of victims. Still, one could see by the way Stan moved, he was thinking of the next time. If he succeeds, the ending will be tragically different.

But this is no time to think of further into the future than Mil's next match. Graham can't bend arms anymore. He'll have to face the heroic Mexican mat star. It's the one thing Graham had hoped wouldn't have to come about.

No one knows if Graham talked to Stasiak after the match. Probably not. After all, what could they say to each other? Neither man would want to hear it. □



On this one night, Dick Slater proved he could be a brilliant scientific wrestler (above and left). It was truly a great moment in wrestling history!

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT a smile on Dick Slater's lips that makes you take two steps back. It's also a good idea to check for a knife between your shoulder blades.

There's no way Slater can be trusted. The man's loyalties change on a moment's notice. In fact, you can't even trust him to be dishonest!

"They're coming to boo me,

eh?" Slater asked before his match against Dino Bravo. "The fans think I'll be cruel and ruthless and all those other things that make them feel morally superior. They enjoy that, don't they? Well, don't let anyone say I gave those morons what they wanted."

No one knew what Slater meant, which is about par for the course where Dick is concerned. All you can do is sit back and see what he does.

Dino Bravo heard of Slater's strange vow about 10 minutes

All they had in common were superb athletic ability and the will to triumph. When Dick Slater battled Dino Bravo, the best and worst of wrestling ignited into a blaze of excitement

Dick Slater vs. Dino Bravo A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

before the match. The report was greeted with laughter.

"You have to be crazy to worry about what Slater says," Dino explains. "The man is a walking contradiction. All that matters is what happens in the ring. He's so confused, half the time he doesn't know what he's saying."

Shortly thereafter, the two men were standing at opposite ends of the wrestling ring. Slater still had that evil smile etched on his face. Bravo appeared not to notice,

although in reality, that would have been impossible. There was a horrible fascination there that commanded attention.

The match began. Slater was cautious, controlled, intelligent. It was clear Dino was waiting for the explosion. So were the fans. Slater kept them waiting.

Instead of brawling, Dick executed brilliant scientific maneuvers. Bravo was stunned. It took him almost a minute to see what was happening. Slater was wrestling legally! Dino decided to respond in kind. The

fans were at first confused, then awed by the magnificent display of wrestling greatness.

Slater was superb. Every move was classically brilliant. His armlocks were executed with the slithering strength of a boa constrictor. His elbow-smashes were exquisite in their form and power. Fans were gaping at his agility, speed, and strength. But how can you boo greatness?

Once he understood Slater's tactics, Bravo met him in kind. Never has Dino's intelligence been so apparent. He out-thought rather than out-wrestled Slater. Dino anticipated Slater's strategies with the speed of instinct and countered beautifully. Slater kept trying elaborate plans only to have them thwarted by Bravo's defenses. Still, Dino couldn't get a sustained advantage. Slater's grappling was much too fine.

This was a great scientific match, just the kind nobody expected to see. Slater was fooling everyone. Yet, Dick wasn't winning. Any moment now, he'd get desperate and start cheating. That's the nature of the man.

But Slater is renown for going against his nature. Throughout the match, he maintained a scientific stature. Nobody could hate the man. They had to respect him. Did it make them angry! Slater couldn't have been happier.

His real opponent wasn't Bravo but the fans. He wrestled Bravo to a draw, but he convincingly defeated the fans. It's just like Slater to do something decent only when it gets people angry.

After the match, the fans cheered both Bravo and Slater. They had seen wrestling at its best. This was what the true meaning of the sport should be all the time. Slater ignored the

(Continued on page 52)



Angel bends Gaby over a chair, tugging the lovely brunette's hair as hard as possible.

**Apartment
Wrestling
Spectacular**

CL ENCO OF THE FUR

Two exquisite beauties war in the most complex, awesome, and furious match in apartment wrestling history. No one view of the match could possibly tell it all. Therefore, it was decided to print three versions, two of which are by the magnificent women themselves!

THE ACTION WAS so fast, so furious, no two people could explain what happened. It was a whirlwind of ferocity. Two beautiful women, superb athletes and ruthless battlers, brawled for what seemed an exquisite eternity. Yet when it was over, no two spectators recounted the events in the same way.

That's when we realized this was an extraordinary match and had to be handled as such. It was felt these different reports, each correct in feeling if not action, could best explain the excitement this match generated. Therefore, we contacted the three people who would best convey the match's excitement.

The first two were the obvious choices: the women themselves. Both were delighted with the opportunity. Since the match had ended in a draw, with the host having to stop it, each woman longed to show why the match was stopped when the



Angel shows no mercy as she grinds her knee into Gaby's alabaster neck. This was typical of the savagery of this awesomely brutal bout.

LOSE WRESTLERS... UNUSUAL KIND!

other was in trouble. As you'll soon read, both have constructed convincing arguments.

Our first reporting participant is Gaby, a striking brunette native of France. She first came to this country to pursue a movie

career, offered by a producer pursuing her. When his wife found out, Gaby's cinematic career ended abruptly. Beautiful women are never in trouble. A photographer recommended her to a modeling agency where

she found employment and friends. One young lady introduced her to apartment wrestling, and she became one of New York's favorite battlers.

Gaby's opponent is known as Angel, a gossamer blonde with

the soul of a cougar. No one knows her real name or anything about her past. There has been some speculation and rumors, and there was a month when she disappeared from sight completely, but no proven facts have ever been unearthed. Of course, what she was and where she comes from is her business and no one else's. All that's needed to be known is her abilities as an apartment wrestler. They are extraordinary.

To understand the magnetism of this beauty, consider this: eight poems have recently appeared in leading literary magazines entitled "Angel." There's no need to guess which lady supplied the inspiration.

The third report is from Harry Younger, leading New York sports entrepreneur. The match, like many other superb exhibitions, took place in his spacious penthouse. Younger, an internationally renowned athlete as well as impresario, can be counted upon to report the facts in an objective manner, at least to the best of his ability. This match was impossible to view objectively. The excitement penetrated senses beyond the mind's control.

So we meet these two beauties as they come out of the dressing rooms. Each body is taut with tension, every nerve is alive for combat. The spectators are caught up in the excitement, become restless with waiting. Everyone leans forward in his chair, hoping to bring himself that much closer to the action. Now the two women are no more than eight feet apart. Their eyes lock in a cold stare. Hands clench and unclench at their sides. They eagerly await the signal to begin. It is given. The match is on.

GABY'S STORY: From the first, I know she is nothing. I quickly



Gaby digs her nails like talons into Angel's throat as the blonde lies stretched helplessly upon the chair. The blonde beauty writhes and jerks as she tries to escape from her tormentor's clutches.

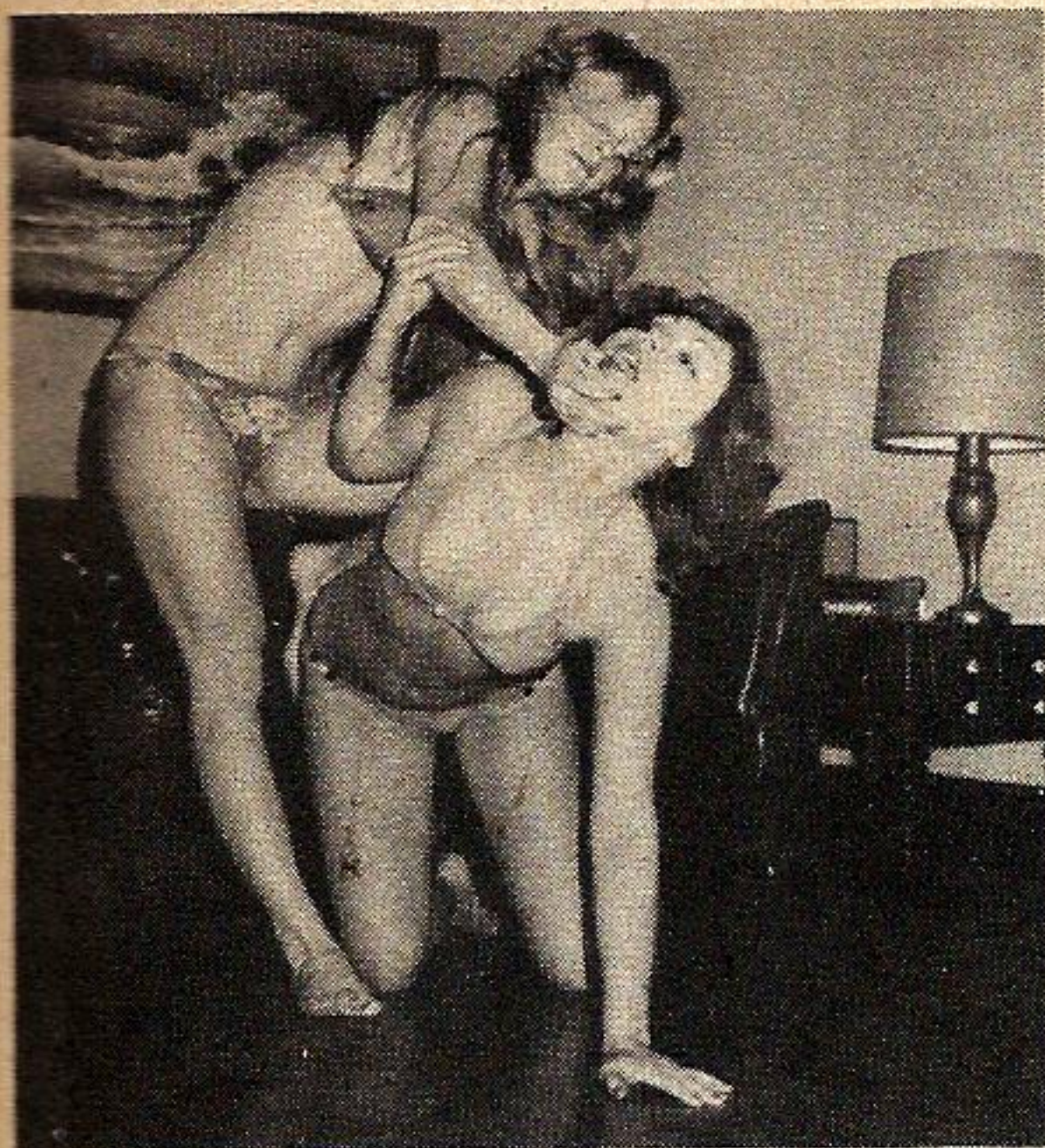
grab her legs and push her to the floor. She falls hard on her head. Too bad that is the part of this woman she can most afford to hurt. Stupid blonde. All the blonde ones are stupid.

She tries to use the couch as support. I leap upon her. My hands go around her throat. I feel her weaken beneath my grasp. I squeeze harder. My nails dig into her neck. Her eyes are crazy with fear. She is seconds away from quitting.

Then, she escapes. This is my fault. I was too sure of myself. She gets a moment's rest. Then she comes back. The blonde cow proves she is stupid.

Wild and reckless, she goes after me. I let her go crazy. She will get tired, I know. She thinks she is winning. She is just being stupid.

The cow knows nothing. She grabs me by the arm, pulling me forward. Why do this? I don't ask questions; I just respond. As she



Angel expertly grabs for Gaby's chin as she digs her knee into the lovely victim's neck. Below: Gaby brings Angel to her knees.

pulls, I lift my knee. It smashes into her belly. I like it when her eyes roll and she falls to the floor. When the cow falls on wood, she makes a nice sound.

I jump on her—again. This time, I humiliate. I lift her up by her hair. Then I twist her around. It is simple to kick her now. She falls onto the chair. She is lucky.

I am upon her again. But I am not used to a chair. Losing my balance, I fall on the floor. Wood floors hurt. Why doesn't Harry have carpets? But I have other things to worry about.

The cow is nasty. She grabs my arm and twists. The pain is

incredible. I do not cry. I won't give her the satisfaction. The pain dulls my brain. I have to forget it, try to get away. A risk must be taken.

Making my arm as stiff as possible, I roll quickly away. If the cow keeps up the pressure, my arm will break. Luckily, blondie is too weak to keep it up. I break free.

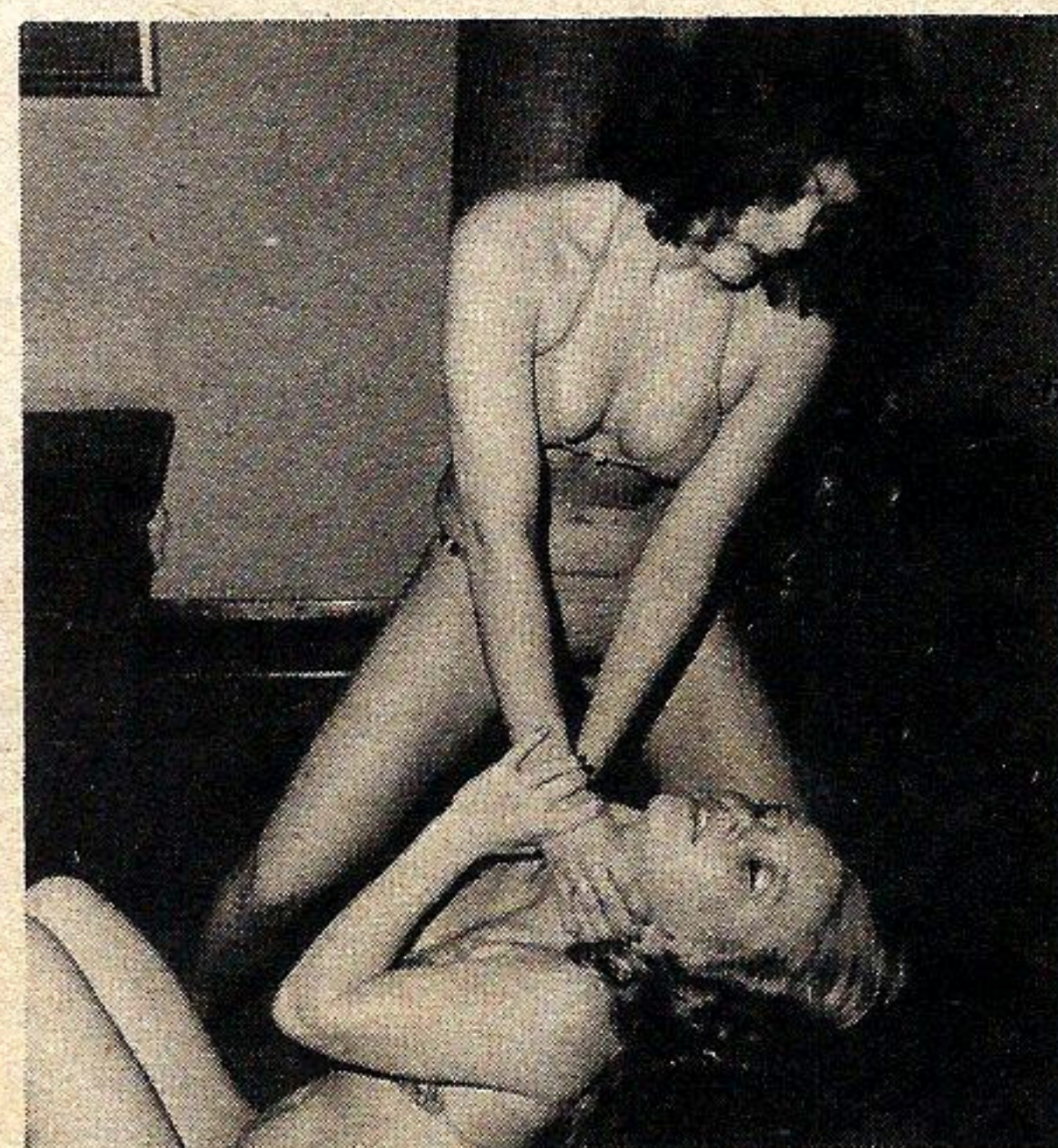
Much of the action becomes a blur in my mind. I know we struggle, I know I have control. The cow she gets crazy. She tries a full-nelson. I break free. She tries punching, catching, and kicking. I am not hurt. Then I torture her with moves of my own. She screams. I laugh. I know now I will win.

I grab the cow around the neck. She gasps for breath. I feel her legs grow weak. Her entire body trembles. There is no way she can continue to stand. She falls. This time, I show no mercy.

My hands still clutch her throat. Yet, this is no woman—this is some sort of animal. I feel a blinding pain in my groin. She has elbowed me hard where a woman is most tender. Everything spins. I fall to my knees.

The pain passes. We face each other, no more than a foot apart.

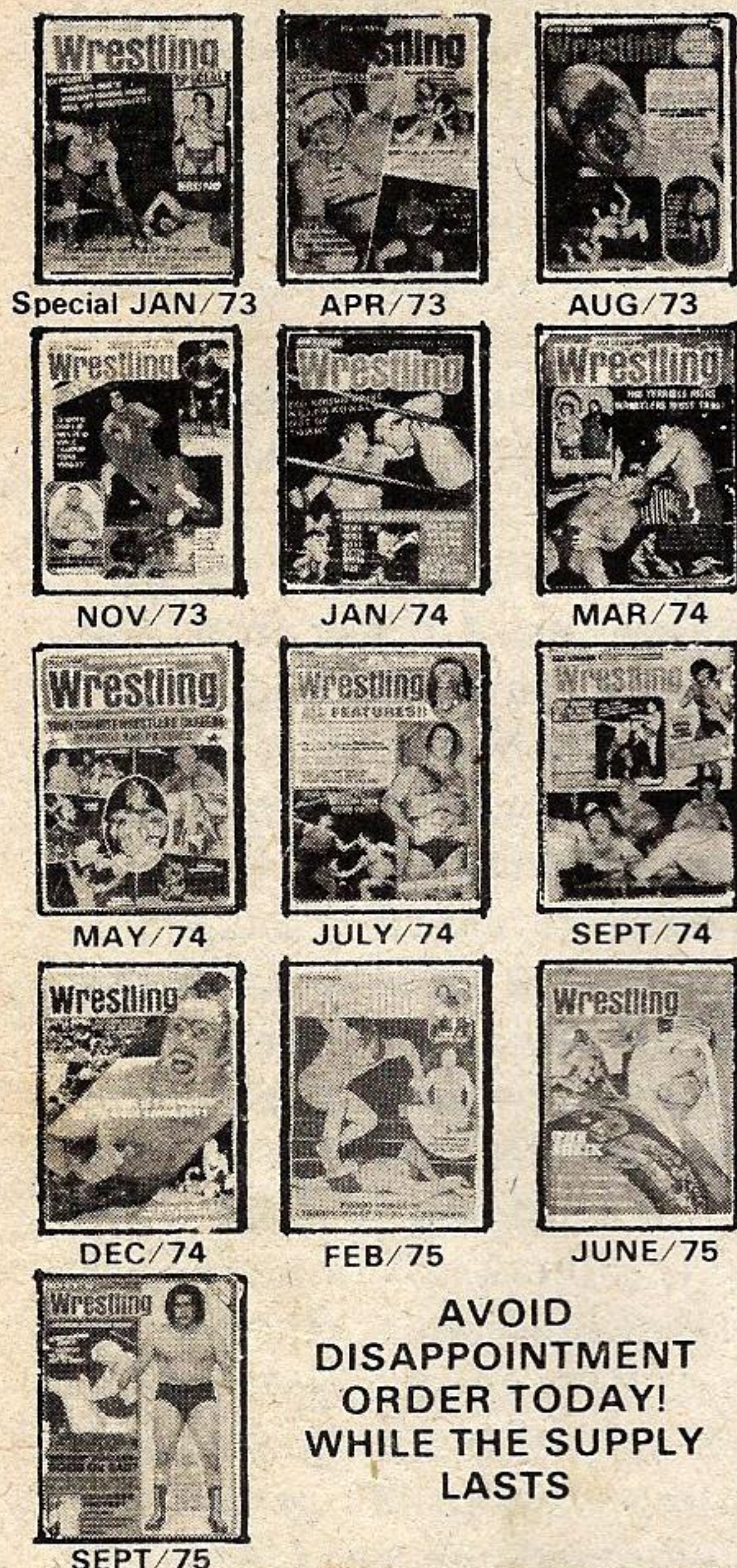
(Continued on page 56)



Angel's eyes betray her senseless agony as Gaby mercilessly chokes the blonde beauty with cruel power.

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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from Page 21)

But Dusty Rhodes lives for the fans. He has taken on their cause. Everything he does, he does for them. He is their champion. He has their love. And they have his.

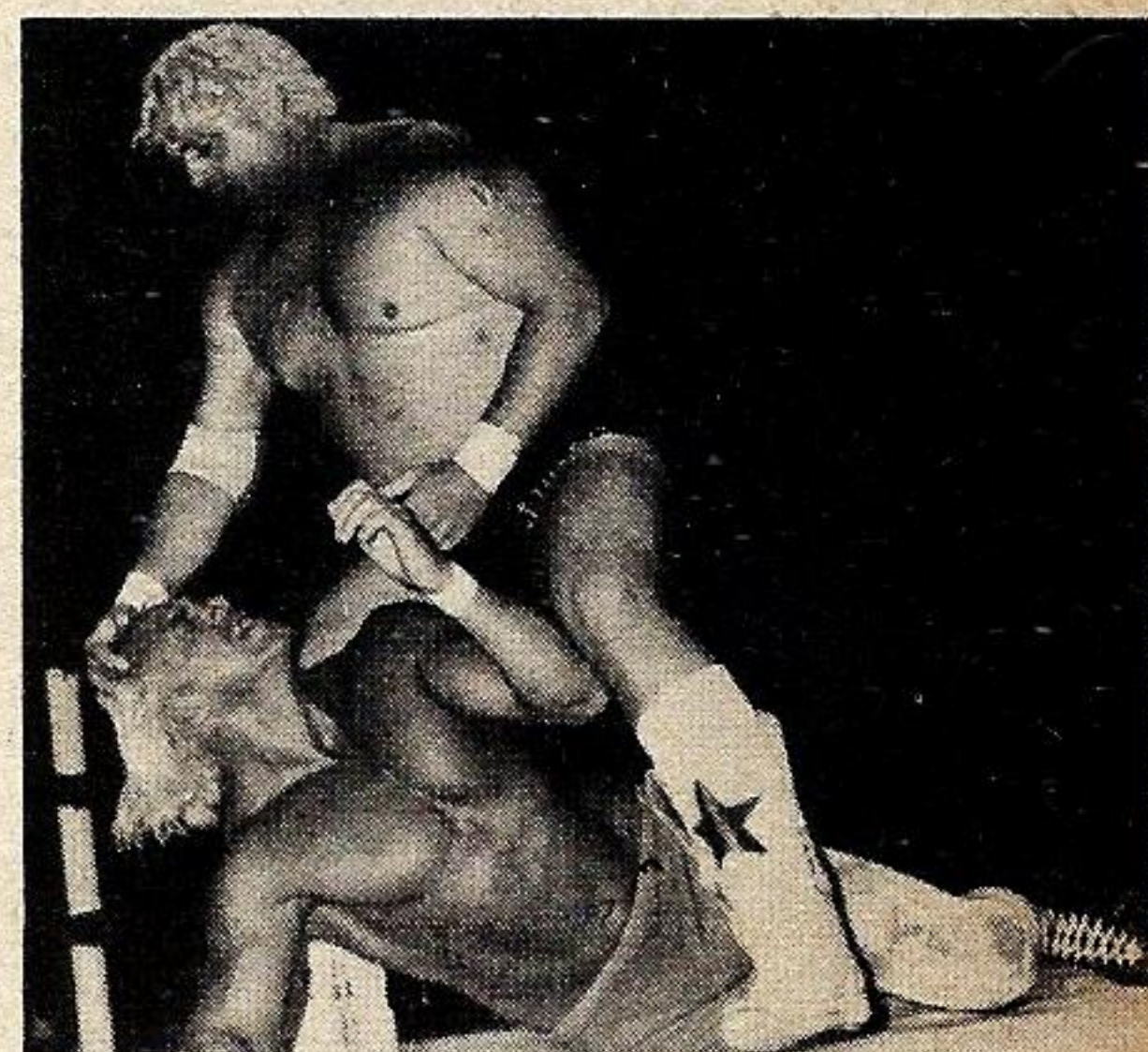
Take a look at the calibre of opponents this man has faced in recent times. He does not try to match himself against easy targets. He takes on men like Superstar Graham, Harley Race, Butcher Vachon, and others of that type. He takes on the vicious rulebreakers the fans want to see defeated. And though he does not always succeed, at least he makes his best effort. That is all the fans ask. That is what Dusty Rhodes gives them.

Of course, Rhodes is not without his detractors—no man ever is. These people (and there are only a few) continue to make mention of the fact that Dusty has never officially won a major championship. They cynically state that he never will. They summarily dismiss his vast army of fans as misguided fools.

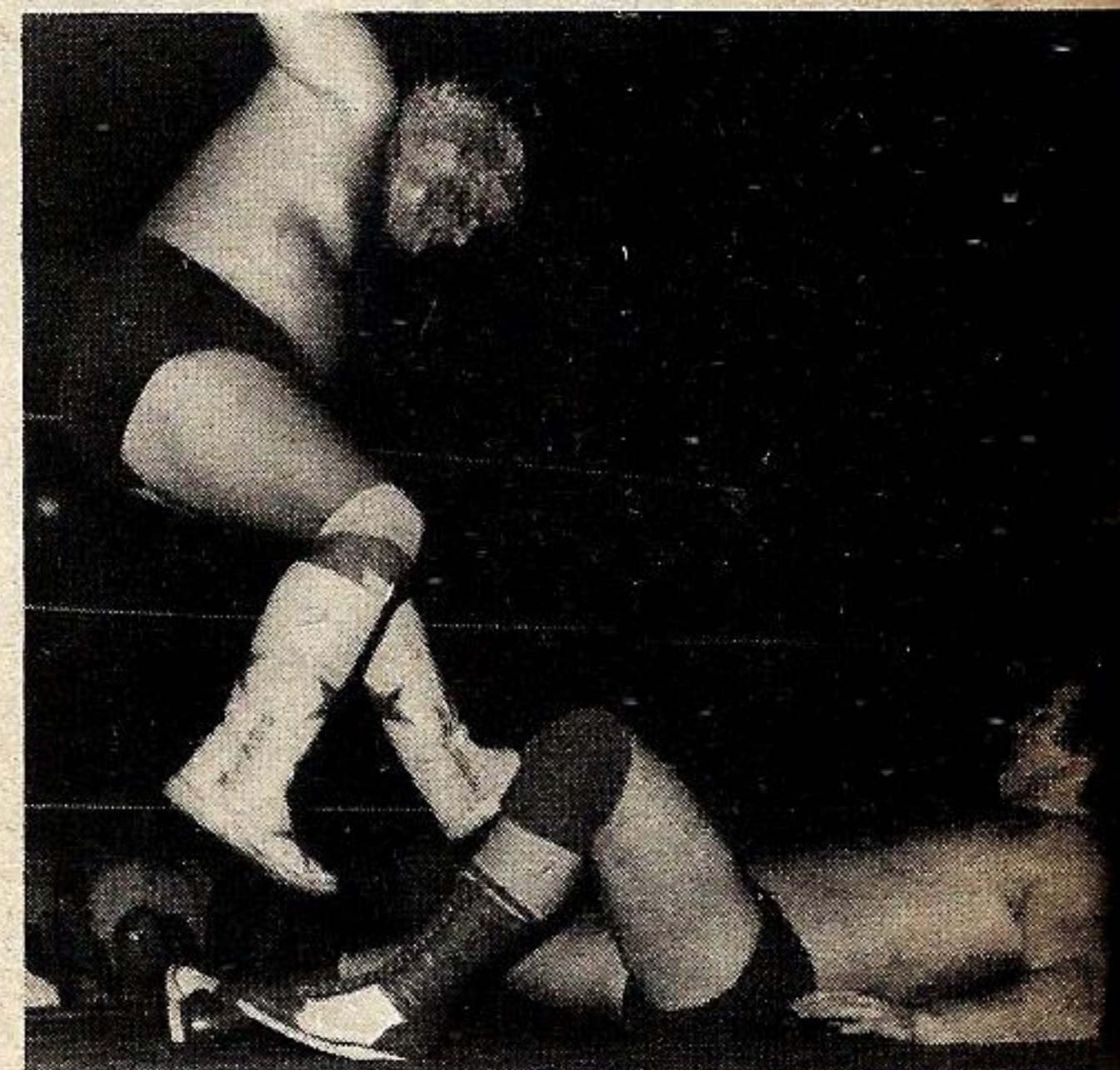
There are very few of these critics.

When Dusty Rhodes walks into an arena, the fans go wild. Their adoration is not misguided. Anyone who really knows the sport will tell you that the fans are the most discerning people around. They do not easily give out their affections. They must be won over a long period of time. Dusty Rhodes has spent a long time trying to win the fans. He has succeeded at that.

That Rhodes has never won the AWA, NWA, or WWWF belt is of little importance to his fans. They care more for the man



To please the fans, Dusty has tried to win world championships. He is seen in battles against Superstar Graham (above) and Terry Funk (below).



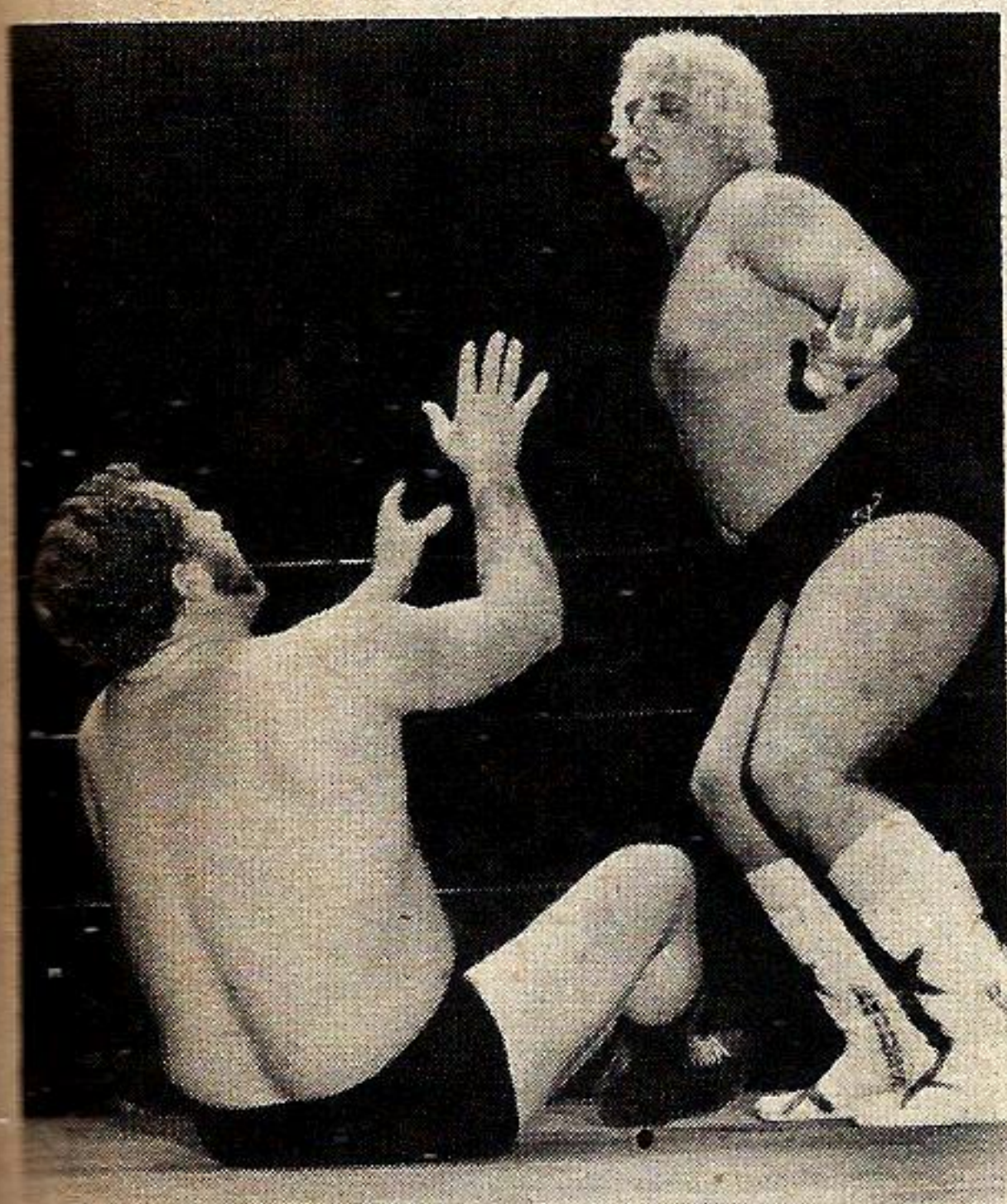
than for a piece of metal. They can identify with him. They can love him. How can they love a piece of metal?

Dusty Rhodes is the People's Champion because he has earned the honor. He has striven to achieve this end. It has been his goal since the day he changed his ways and became a fan favorite. Of course, at that time, it was just a wild dream of his. Now, much to the surprise of everyone, it is the reality of the situation. Say what you will about Dusty's abilities, his maneuvers, his methods in battle, you can never deny the man's popularity. You can never take away the love his fans have for him.

However, one should try not to call Dusty the "People's Champion" to his face. He gets very embarrassed by the praise. "I just do what I'm supposed to do," says Rhodes. "I love the fans. I need the fans. They get me through my toughest matches. Without the fans I would still be wrestling in the preliminaries.

"But I won't rest until I can really call myself a true champion. I do what I do for my fans. And I know they want me to win a title. And I will, because I love them. I love all my fans."

Don't let the man fool you. He loves being called the "People's Champion." It is a sign to him



Dusty has tried to wrest the NWA title from Harley Race on several occasions. He will keep trying until he succeeds.

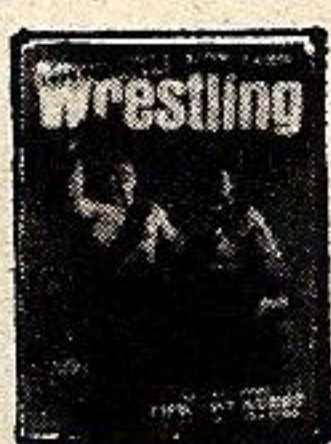
that he has succeeded in what he set out to do. He does love the fans. He truly means that. To him, they are responsible for his success. But they can love him just as much if he is not an official champion. He doesn't have to win a belt.

It is unfortunate history will never be able to officially record Dusty Rhodes as the "People's Champion." But his legend will pass down into generations to come. And someday, your children's great-grandchildren will hear a tale of Dusty Rhodes, the "People's Champion." ☐

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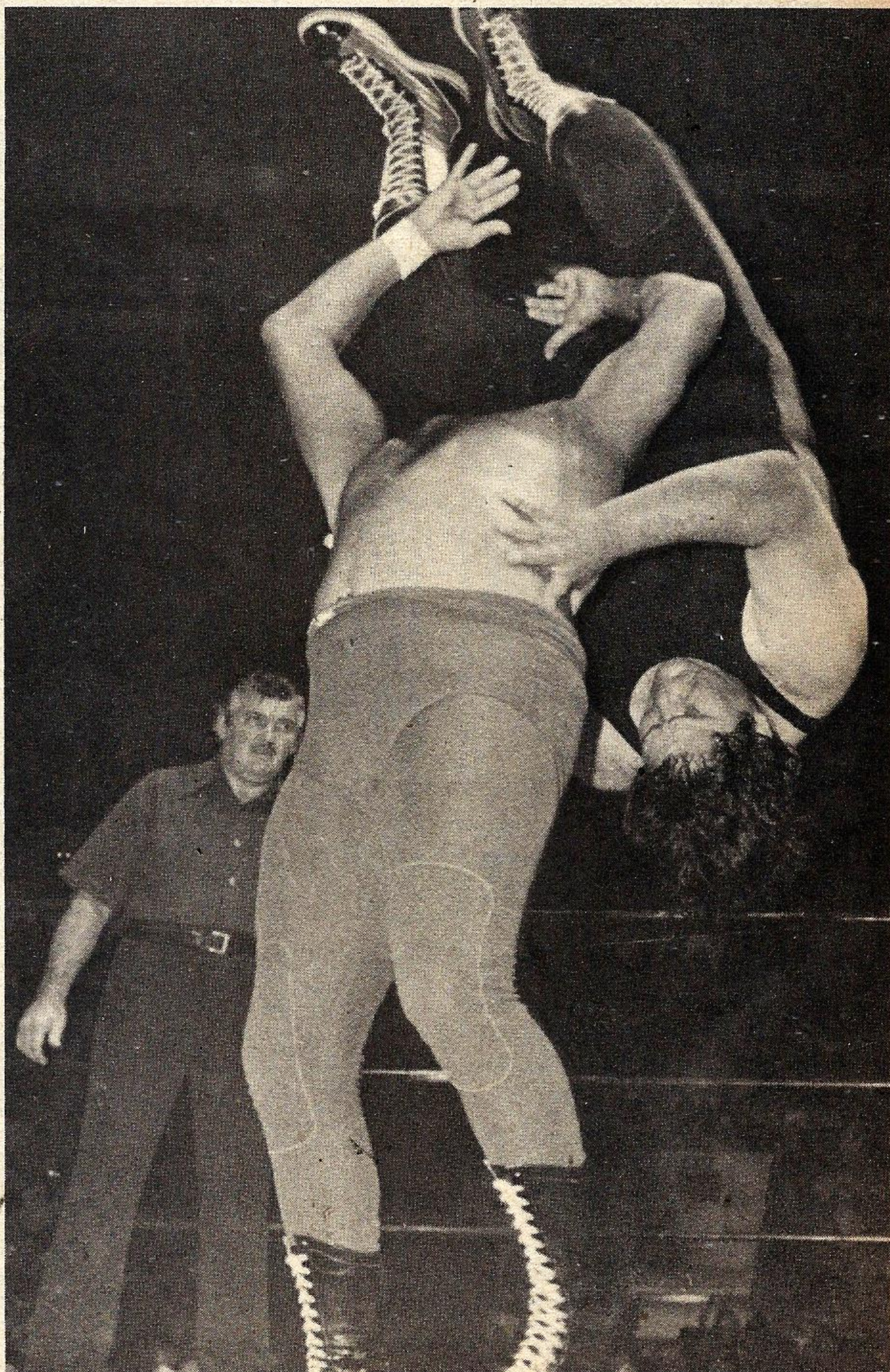
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PRIDE RETURNS TO TEXAS

(Continued from Page 25)

Many months ago, Jose Lothario took a long, hard look at a situation he did not like. Ramos and Studd were terrorizing many honorable and scientific tag teams throughout Texas. They were

bringing shame to the state's tag team title. It wasn't right, Jose felt. He had to do something about it—like find a suitable partner and take the belts from Ramos and Studd. After very careful consideration,



Jose Lothario flips Bull Ramos hard to the canvas. During this exciting match, Jose and his partner, Alberto Madril, were able to keep control and win the Texas state championship. Fans in that state are thrilled to have Lothario and Madril as their champions. Pride has returned to Texas.

only one man seemed to be the right choice for Jose—Alberto Madril. Of course, at first the two men were not sure how to wrestle together. They were awkward together. Maneuvers didn't seem to work well. But they overcame these initial difficulties. They became a tag team *par excellence*.

When Lothario and Madril finally were given a chance to wrestle Studd and Ramos, they were ready. They expected illegal maneuvers. They were not disappointed. They were ready.

Studd and Ramos were overwhelmed by the intensity with these menaces, Jose and Alberto wrestled. There were no errors made. Determined to rid Texas of these manaces, Jose and Alberto were very careful about every move they made. There was only one opportunity to take the belts. To ruin that chance would have been catastrophic.

Lothario and Madril wrestled brilliantly. That is how they took the title from Studd and Ramos.

As they were being handed the belts, the spectators were on their feet, cheering the newly-crowned tag team champions. At last, two men would return honor to the state title. The Texas fans could once again be proud. All thanks to Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril.

"I can't even begin to say how grateful I am to them," said Texas fan John Wax. "But I am so glad Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril came along when they did. I was really ashamed that our state champions were John Studd and Bull Ramos. But now we can all be proud again. Jose Lothario and Alberto Madril are our champions. This is a glorious day, isn't it?"

Wax's sentiments reflected those of almost everyone in the arena that night. Everyone was so thrilled with Lothario and Madril, they never saw Studd and Ramos slink away into the night.

As far as the Texans were concerned, John Studd and Bull Ramos no longer even existed. □

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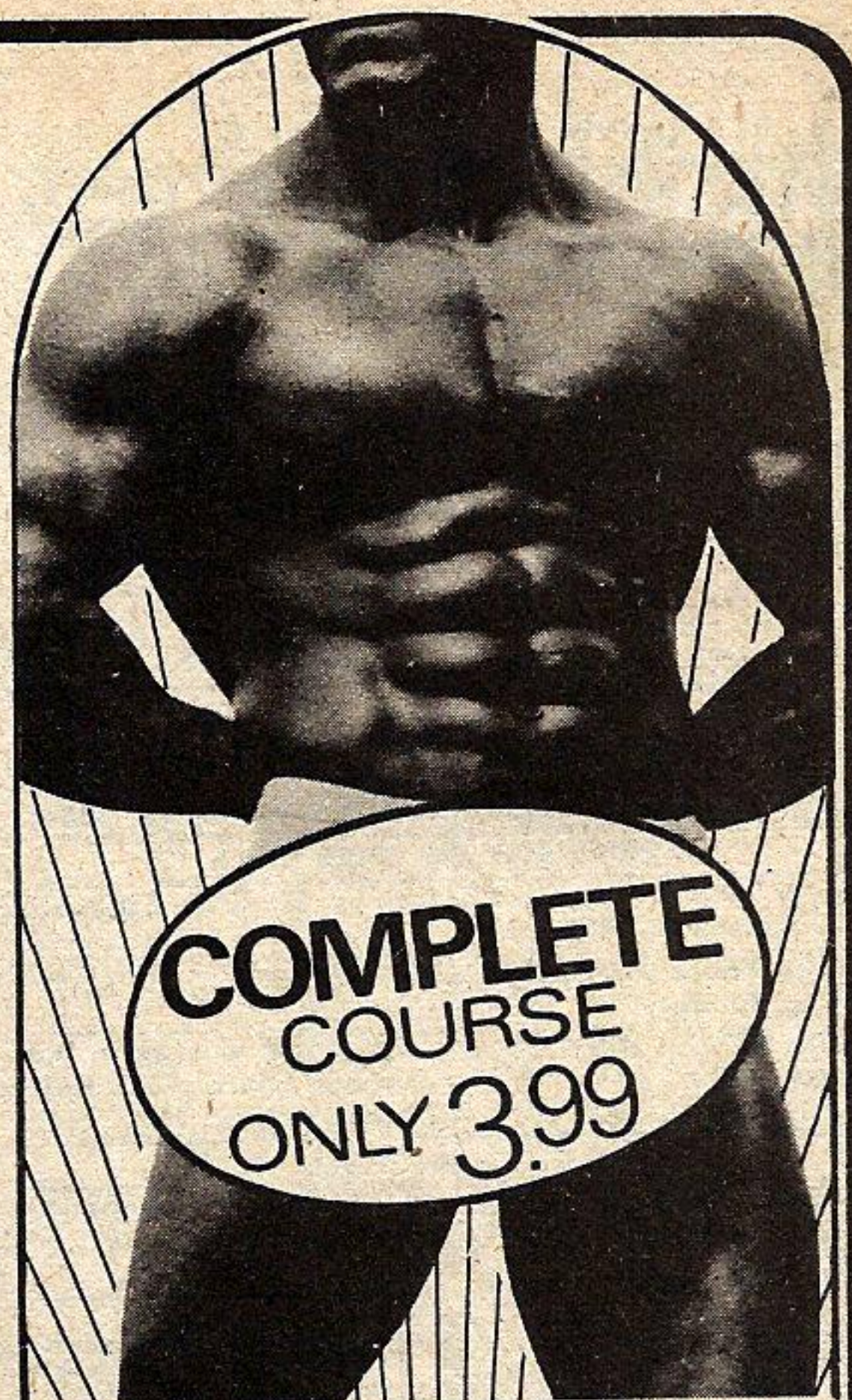
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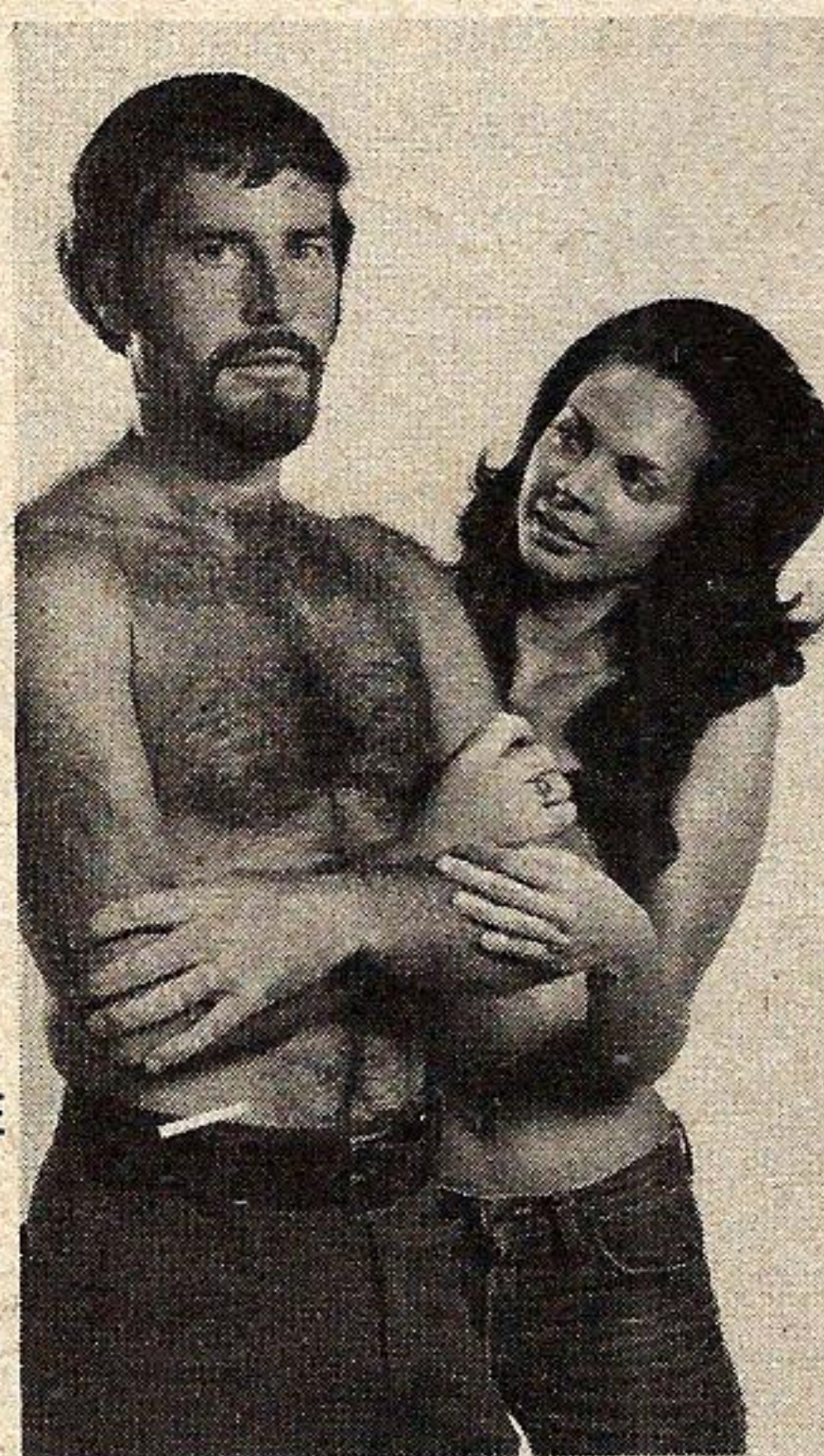
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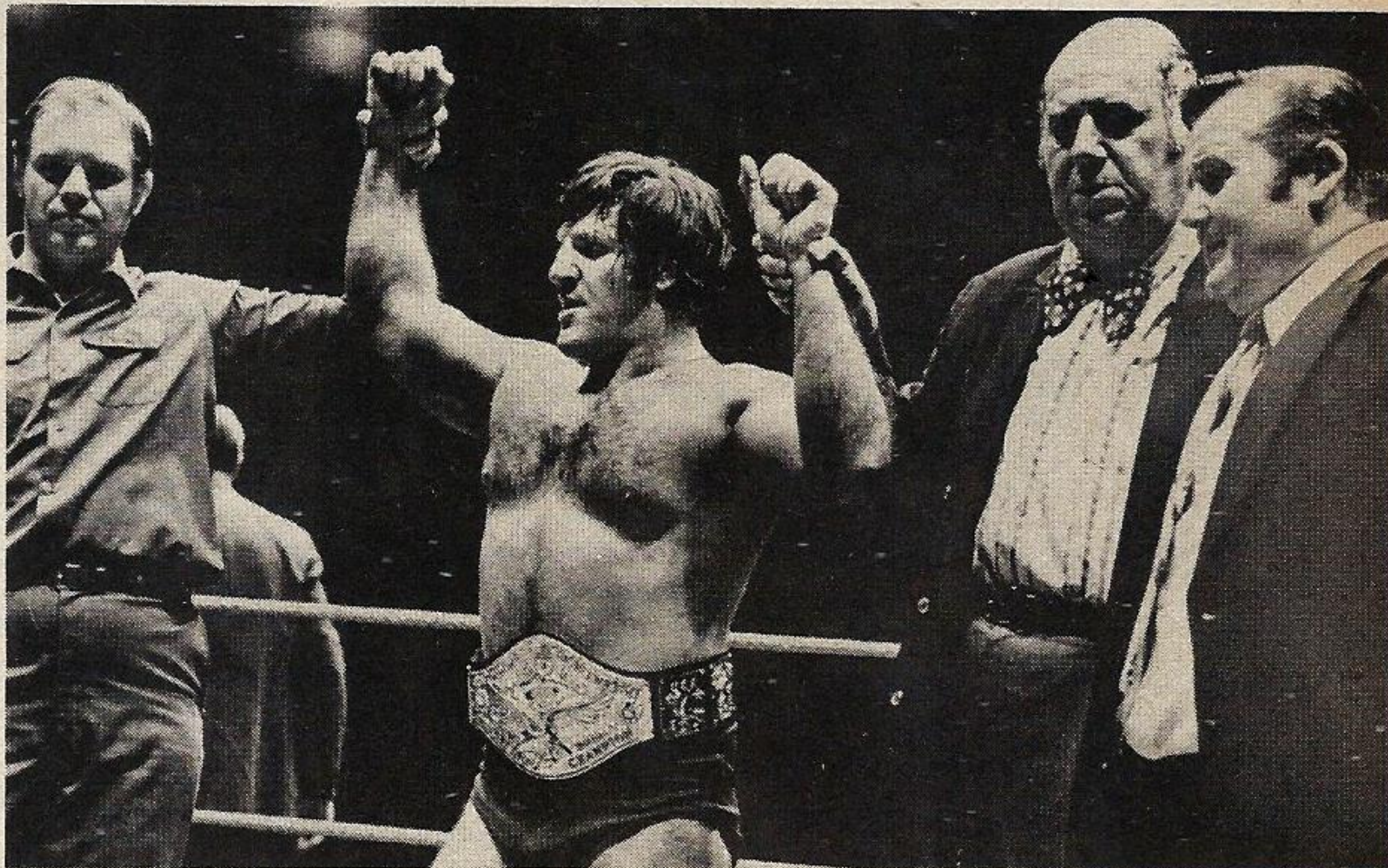
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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from Page 8)

wrestling. And now, he is barely remembered, in spite of all that he has done for the sport. Where is gratitude? Where is veneration? This man deserves much more.

We had hoped it would never come to this. Bruno should not be left to be forgotten by the masses. He should be venerated, as a man who epitomized everything that is good in



Of course, there are many fans who do not forget their idol. They have written thousands of letters, begging Sammartino to return to wrestling. But these are just a small minority of wrestling fans. The majority just do not seem to care about Bruno anymore. They were most certainly around when he was champion and winning matches. Now that he no longer holds the belt, the majority of fans have forgotten about the very existence of Bruno Sammartino.

This is a crying shame. How can anyone forget what Bruno did for wrestling? He held the WWWF title longer than any man in history. He was the main attraction in that federation for many years. He brought dignity and honor to the belt. No man shall ever equal his record. *No man.* But where are the cheering fans now? Bruno who?

A familiar scene: Bruno receives the congratulations of friends after he defends the WWWF championship.

wrestling. We must not allow his handful of detractors to magnify the few bad things Sammartino did. As William Shakespeare once said, "The evil men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones."

Well, Bruno is not yet gone! He can still have a powerful effect on wrestling—if he so desires. He has chosen to stay in semi-retirement. But we do not believe he has chosen semi-obscurity. He didn't think he would ever have to suffer such a fate. Alas, even Bruno is being forgotten.

It must stop. Now is not the time to forget Sammartino. Now is the time to sing songs of his highest glories. Do not bury Bruno, praise him! □

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 10)

ran out just as he had Race in a pin position.) And though he has yet to actually take the title, Rocky is sure he will do so soon. He takes everything in stride.

But even if he doesn't win the championship, Rocky will still be content with his lot in wrestling. And why not. He has the love and adoration of thousands of fans throughout the world. He is respected by his fellow wrestlers. He knows where he is going and he knows where he has been. Good times, bum times, he has no regrets.

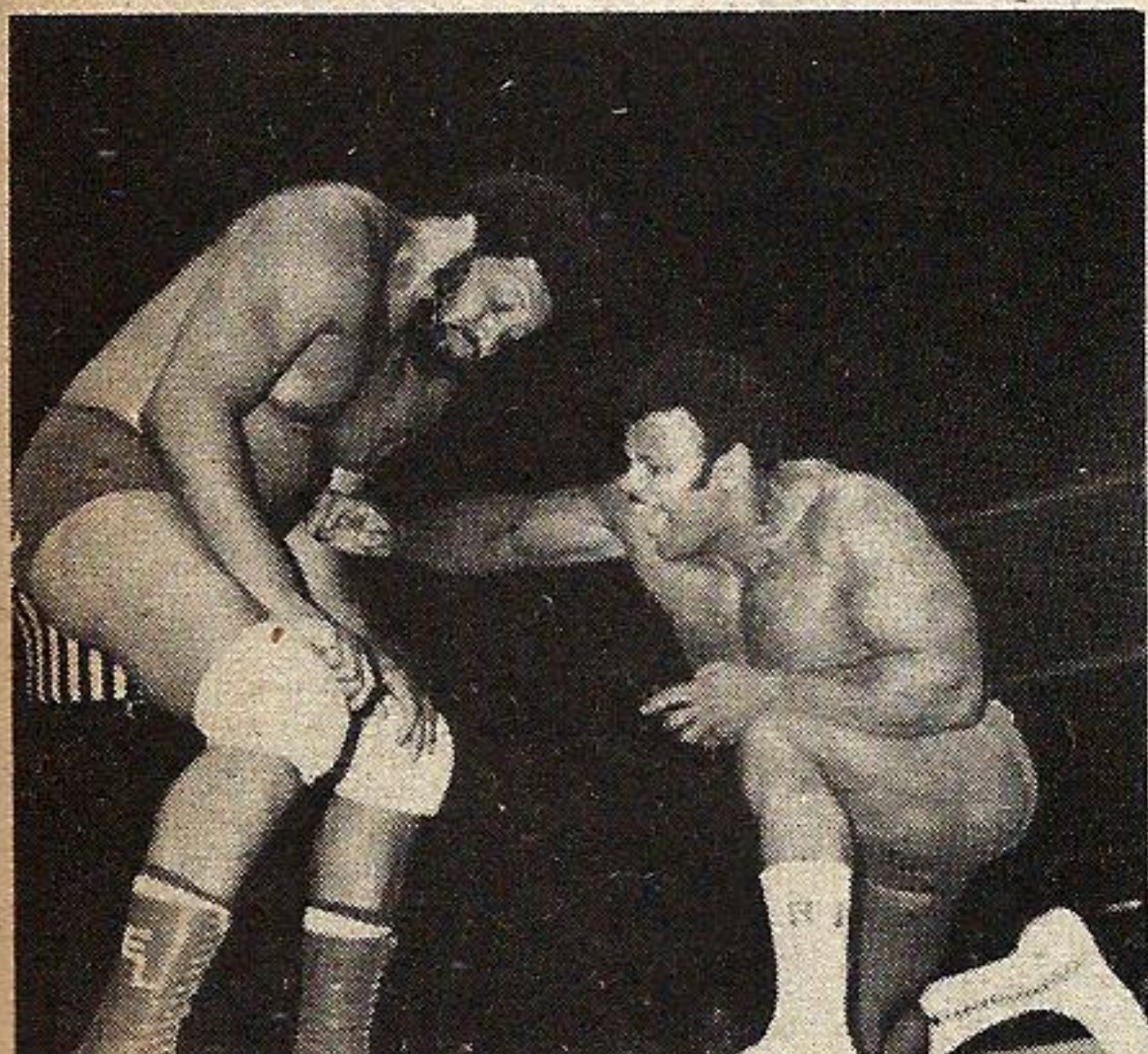
And that is the point. Some terrible things have happened to Rocky Johnson in the course of his career. There have been moments of anger, of agony, of anguish. A lesser man might have given up or given in. Not Rocky Johnson. Never Rocky Johnson.

Many men have tried their worst against Johnson. In one famous match, Rocky was pitted against Sheik. The notorious rulebreaker tried his most vicious tactics against Johnson. But Rocky never gave in. He never let Sheik break his spirit. In spite of every horrible tactic Sheik tried, Rocky was able to ultimately triumph. He is to be admired for what he has done as a wrestler. This award is our way of showing that we appreciate Rocky Johnson.

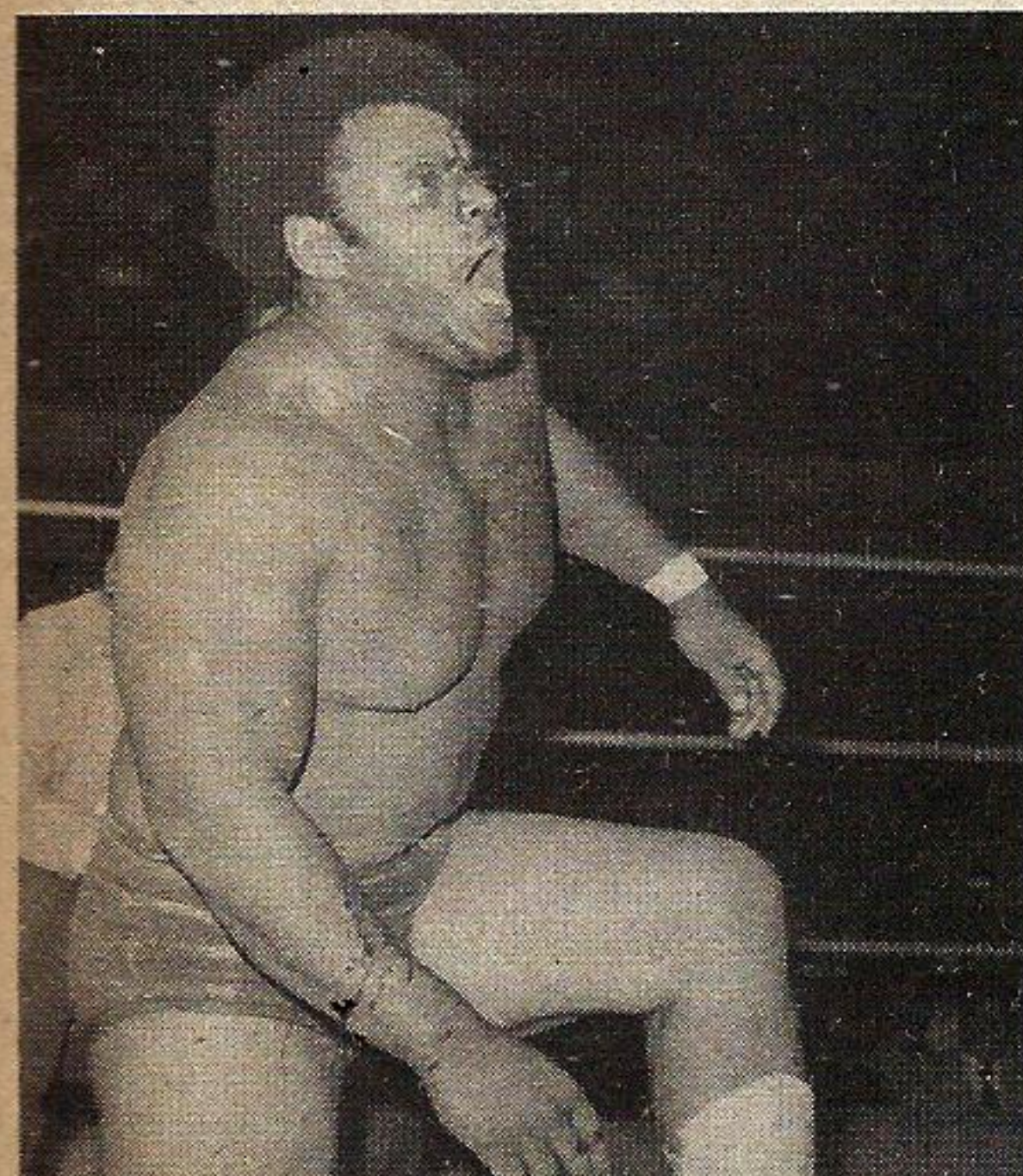
When we informed Johnson he had been selected as "Wrestler of the Month," he was overwhelmed: "I never expected this," he told us. "I thought this

award went to really special people. I guess I never considered myself among them. I feel really humbled by this honor. It was completely unexpected.

"Of course, I really should be thanking my fans for this. Without them, I would have never stuck it out this long. They have been a true inspiration for me. Everything I do is for them.



While fighting for the fans who love him, Rocky punches Ernie Ladd (above) and is bloodied by The Sheik (below).



So I want to thank them now for helping me win this award. They really mean a lot to me."

Rocky Johnson should consider himself among that very special group of people. He is rather extraordinary. There is no need for him to be modest.

Rocky Johnson is the "Wrestler of the Month." And he certainly deserves that honor. ☐



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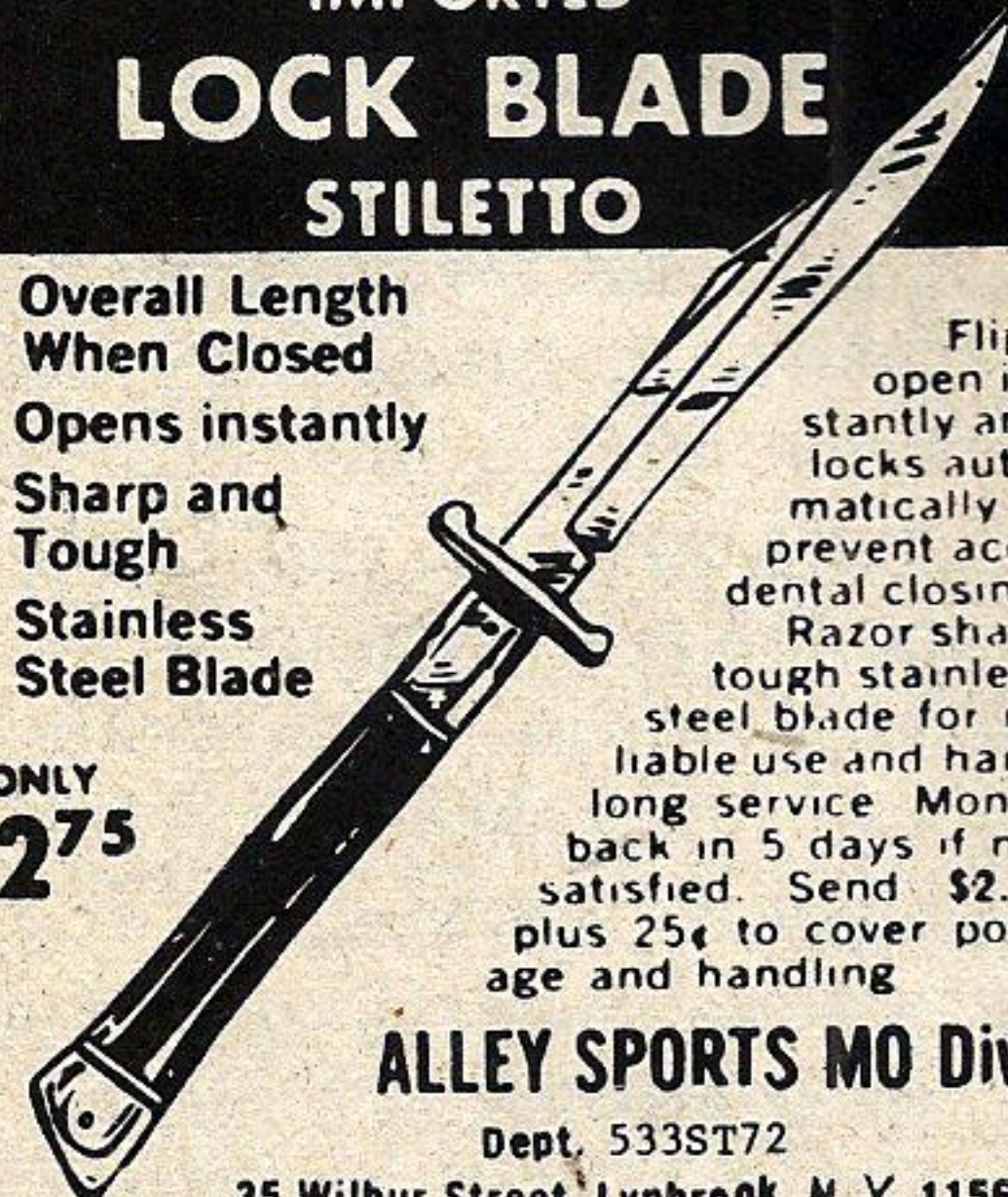
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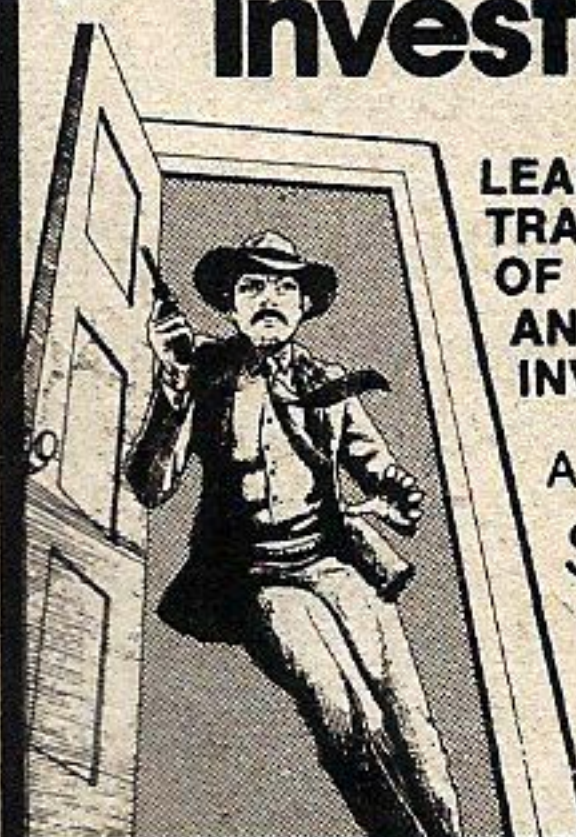
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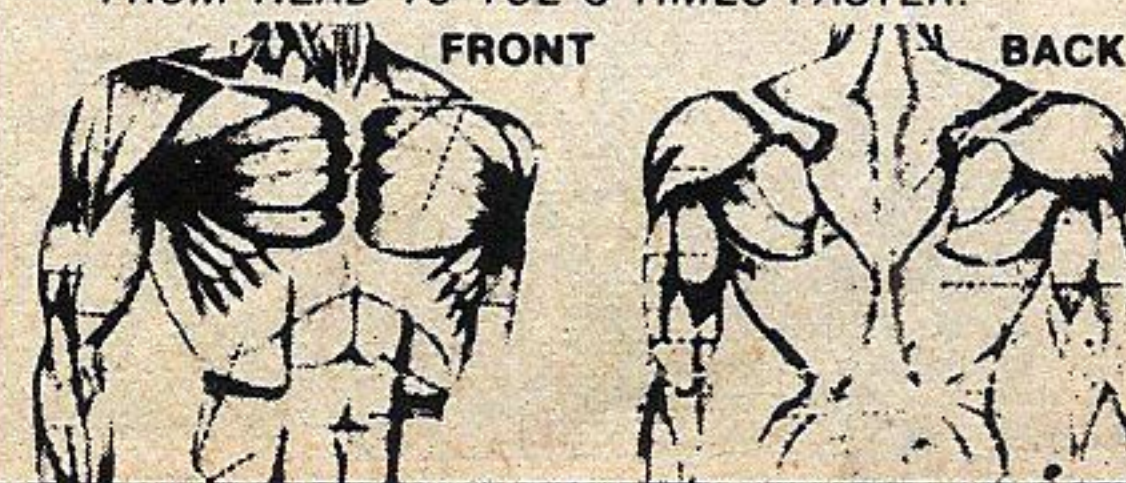
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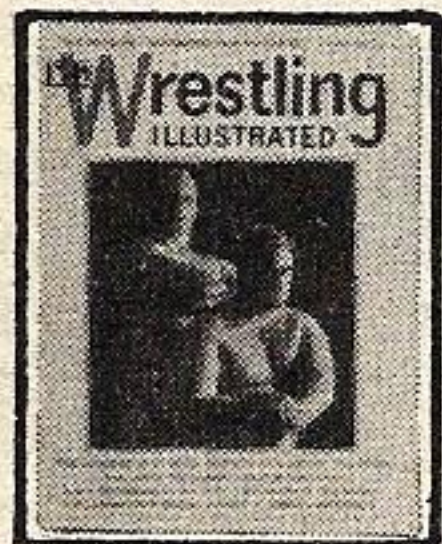
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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

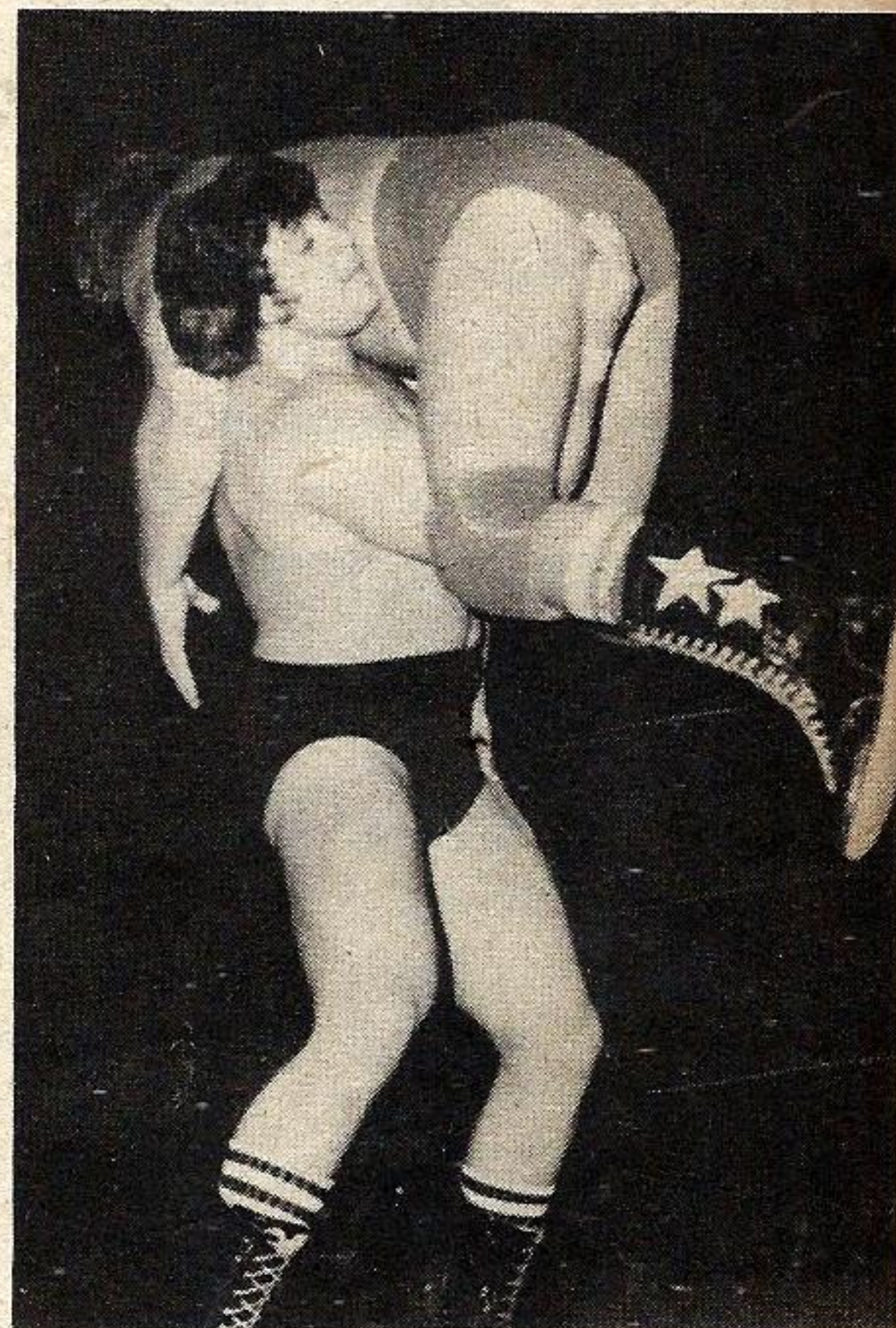
(Continued from Page 39)

ovation and went quickly back to the dressing room. He couldn't care less about the crowd's reaction. All he wanted was that there be no boos.

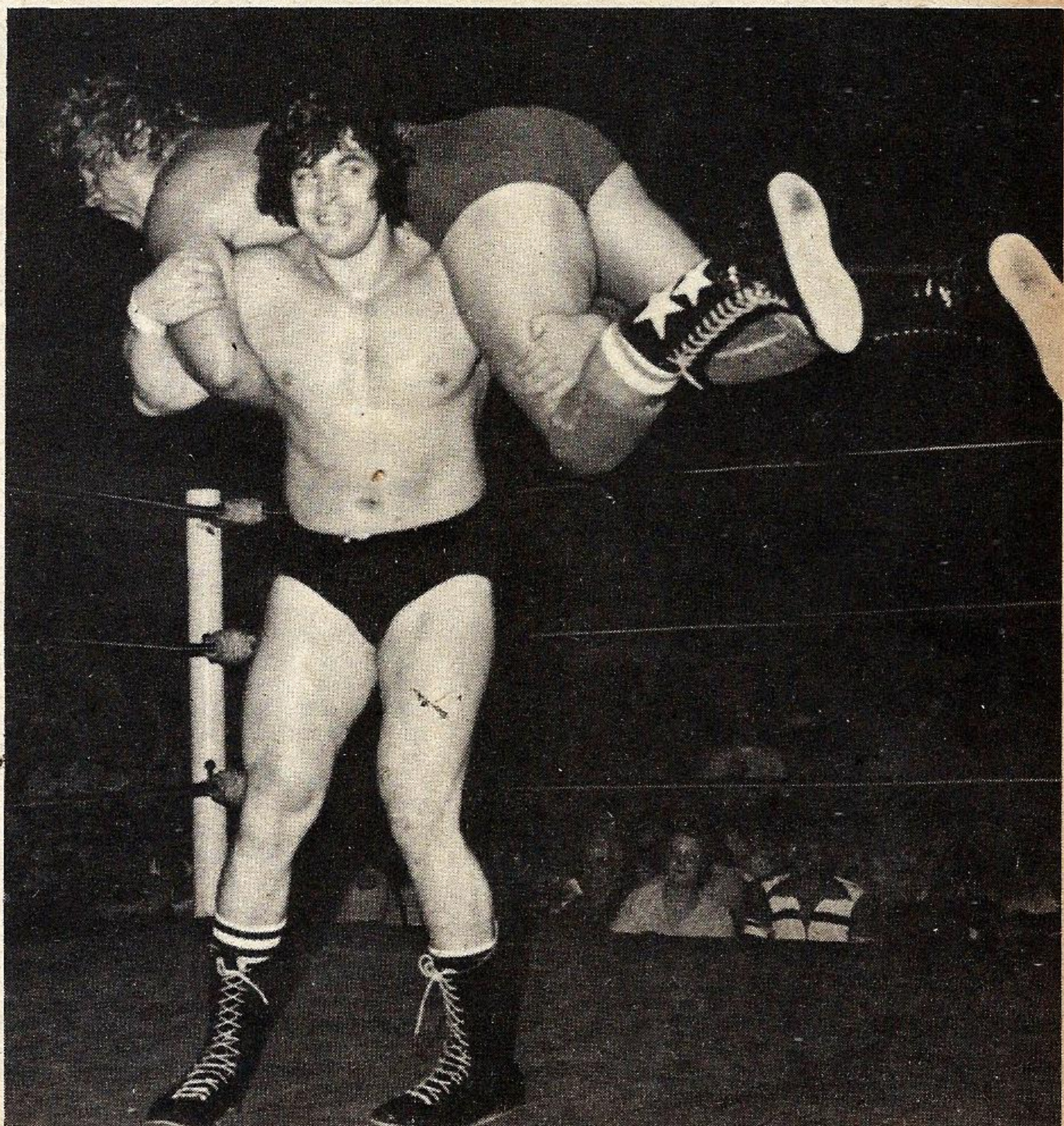
Reporters rushed to his dressing room after the match. "Is this a new era for Dick Slater?" they asked him.

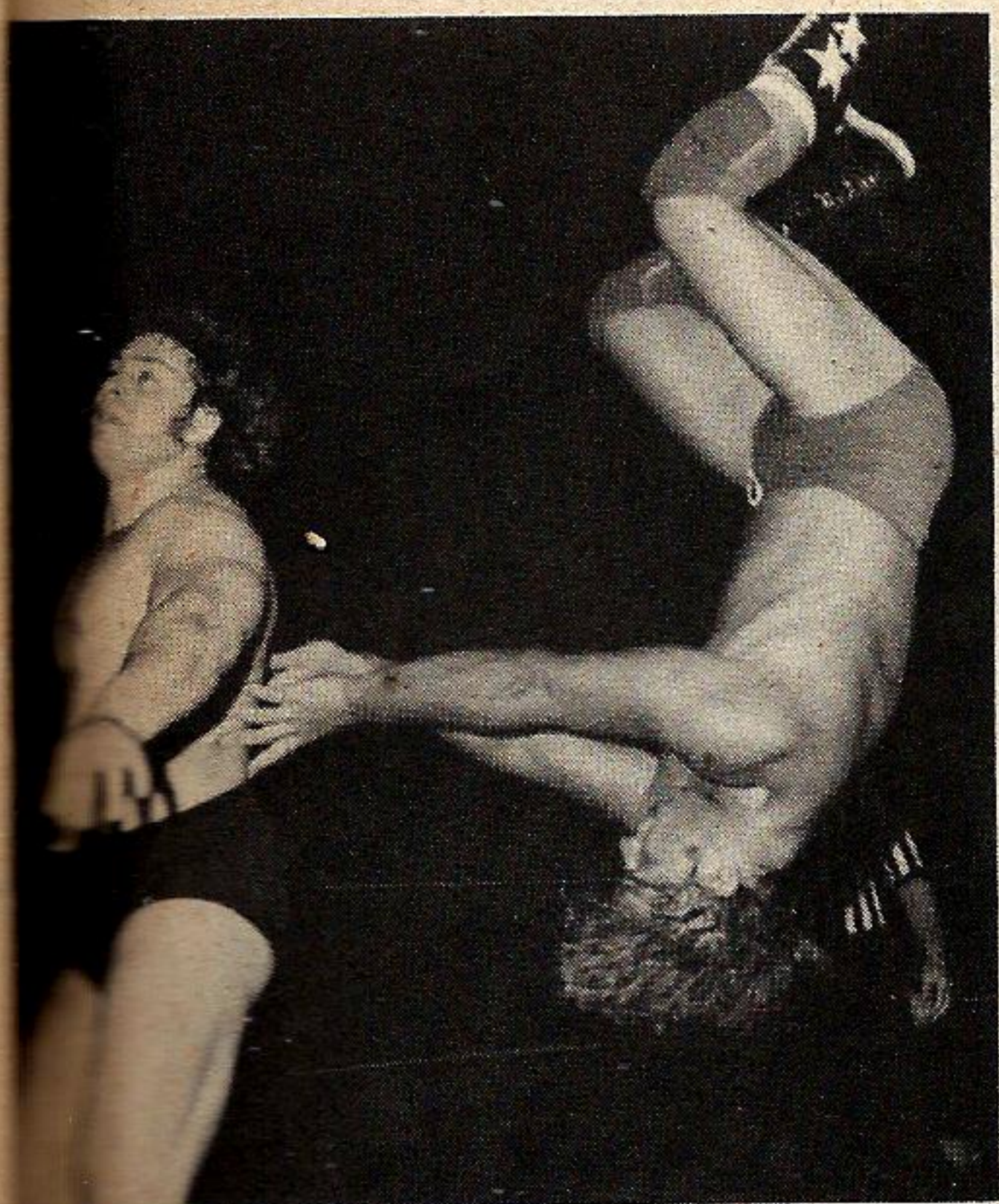
"I do what I want when I want," Slater responded snidely. "Nobody has a right to know what I feel. My plans are my own. If I want to break every rule in the book during my next match, that's up to me. You'll just have to be there to watch."

Other questions were asked and not answered in the same manner. Slater was giving away

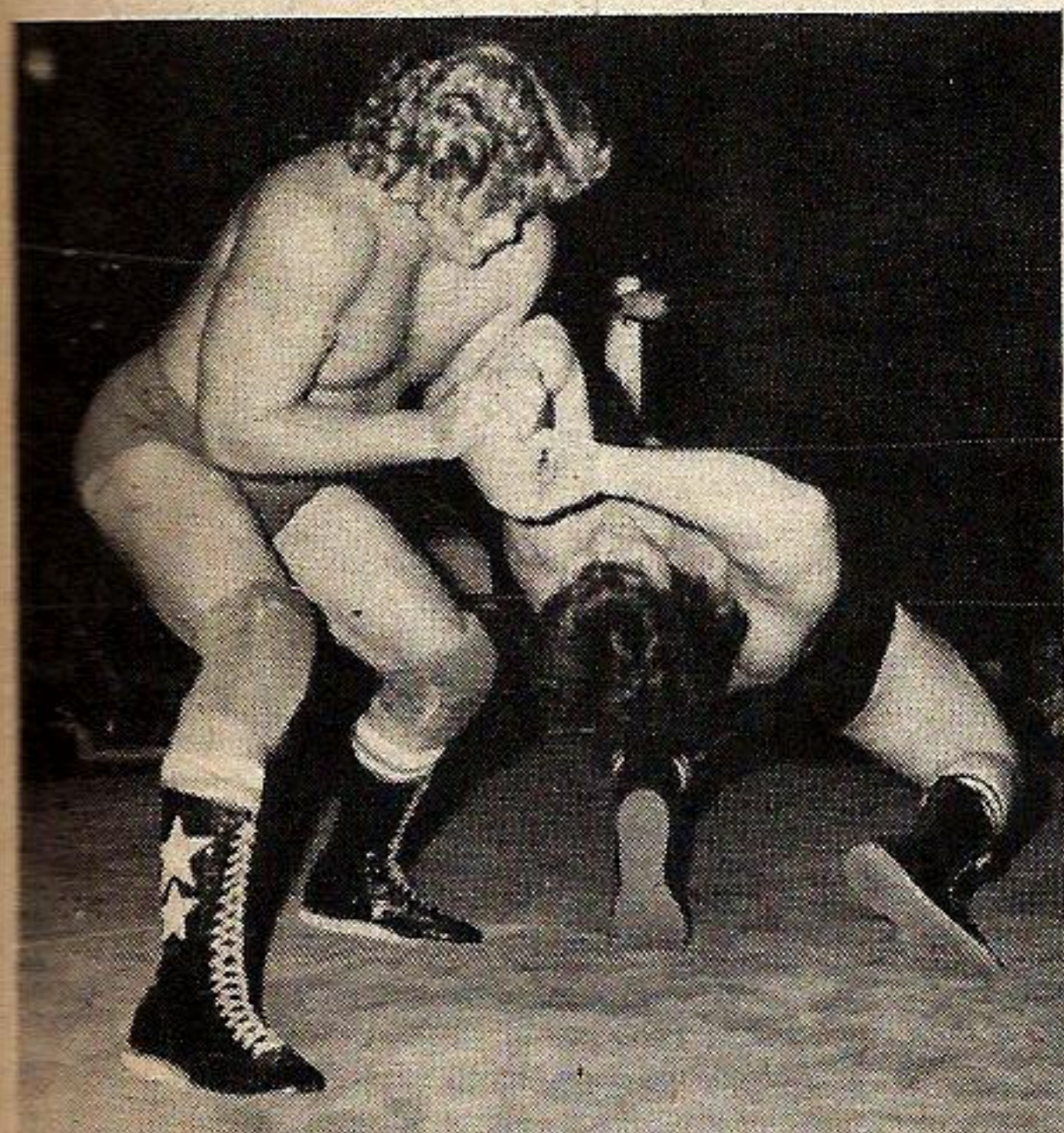


Dino Bravo picks up Slater (above) to put him in an airplane spin (below). These two young wrestlers both wrestled brilliantly on this night, much to the delight and amazement of the fans, who expected Dick to resort to his usual rulebreaking ways. Slater wrestled scientifically for the whole match.





Dino flips Slater hard to the canvas with amazing ease. Slater was able to recover from this and launch his own assault.



Bravo bridges trying to escape from Dick's armlock late in the match. Slater nearly succeeded in winning with this move.

nothing. Few men hate the public as deeply as Dick. When someone asked him why he despises the press and fans, he stormed out without answering.

As for Bravo, he was delighted with the evening, saying, "This is why I became a professional wrestler. I was extended to my limits, forced to be as good as I can be. That's where the magic of sport comes in. This is when an athlete feels most alive!"

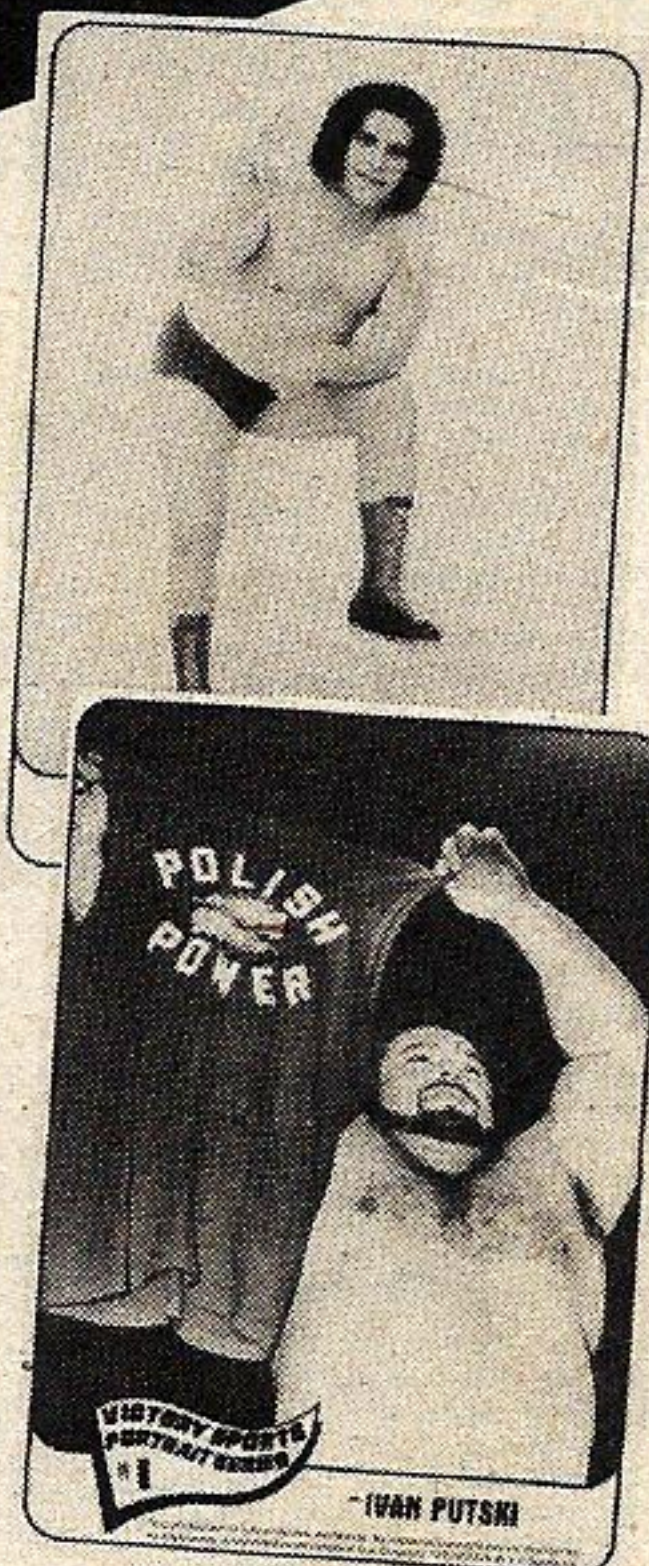
As for the fans, they were deprived of booing Slater. They couldn't have been happier about it. ☐

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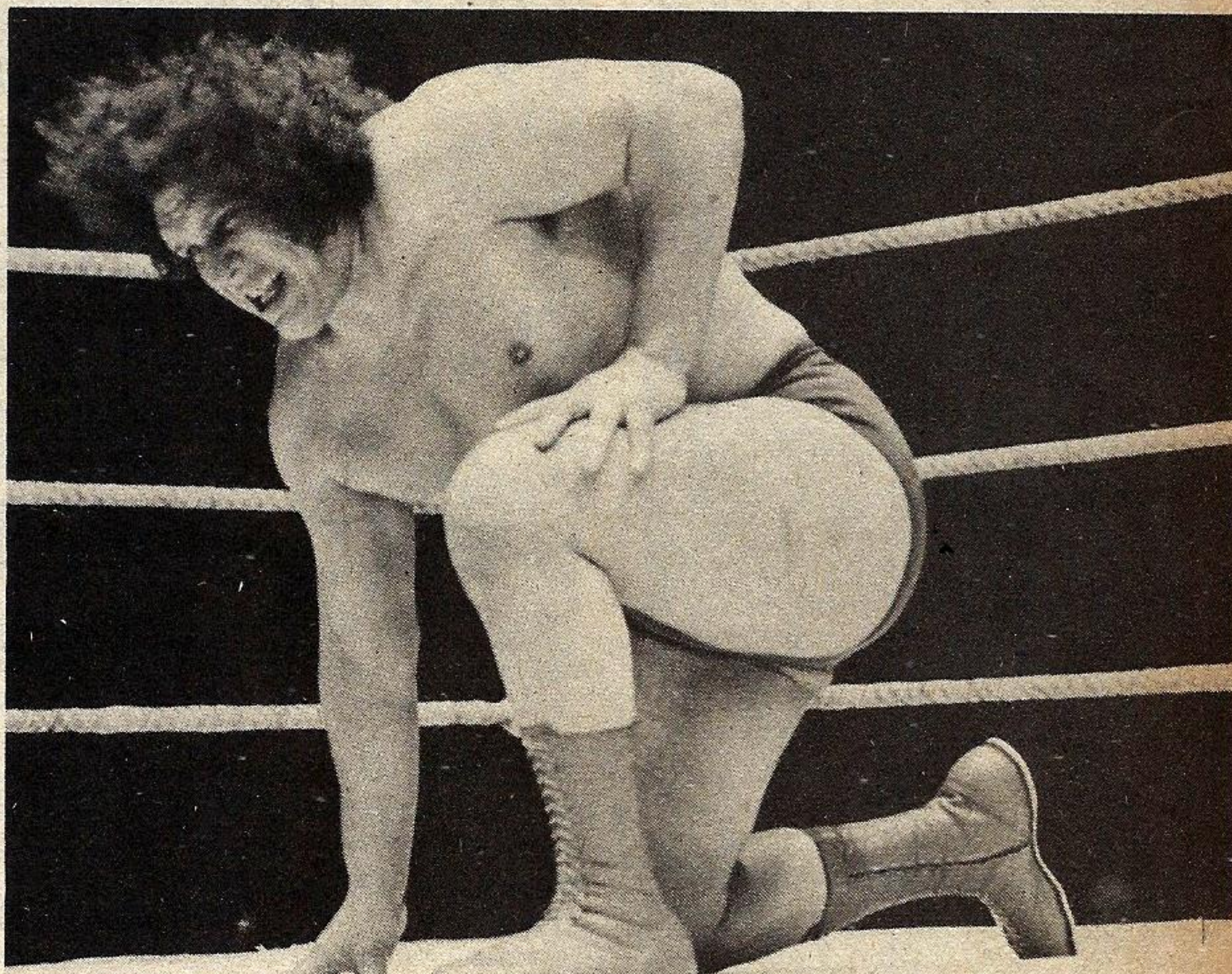
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MAILBAG

(Continued from Page 18)



Reader Jason Koenig of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, wrote in praise of Andre the Giant. According to Jason, Andre need not fear the challenge of anyone, including Ric Flair. Many fans agree.

attempts elsewhere.

How many times does Gagne have to wrestle Bockwinkel? I think he has done enough for other people. He should start doing for himself. After all, being "noble" does not pay the rent. It does not make up for the broken bones.

JUDITH WOOSEY
St. Paul, Minn.

not see any problems ahead for Andre. This man knows exactly how to handle a man so vicious as Flair. Andre has been doing so for his entire professional career.

I do not worry about Andre the Giant. I know he will always be magnificent.

JASON KOENIG
Bethlehem, Pa.

ANDRE IS PREPARED

To me, Andre the Giant has always been one of the most magnificent wrestlers in the sport. He has constantly proven his ability in battle against all types of opponents.

When you say "Now Andre Must Prepare for the Battle of His Life!" (February 1978), you are implying Andre is not at the top of his form. I disagree. I think Andre is always at his best. That is what makes him so great a wrestler.

If, as you say, the battle shall be against a man like Ric Flair, I do

LOOKING AT PATERA

I disagree with the opinion you expressed in "We Accuse" (February 1978). You state, "No commission in the world has the right to deprive any man of the opportunity to pursue a living in the way he sees fit." But if you would take a look at Ken Patera and see how he has crippled men so they would be unable to wrestle for a living, you would see why the fans write to the commissions to ban these ruthless rulebreakers.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

(Continued from Page 43)



A knee digs into Angel's belly as a hand
tightens around the blonde's throat. In
this match, the whole penthouse was the
battlefield.

The cow has bit her tongue and
her mouth is filled with blood.
Delighted, I keep punching.

She is about to fall. The woman
is beaten, a creature with no
strength left. I am about to
deliver the final blow, knock out
the cow, but I am stopped.

Harry calls the match a draw.
Perhaps the cow grants him
special favors?

Still on my knees, I punch her.
She punches back. There is no
power in her blows. I know she
will soon be beaten.

I feel my fist pound again and
again in her flesh. The thud of my
knuckles hitting her face,
breasts, belly and thighs is the
sweetest music to my ears. The
pig has spit running down
her chin, slightly red from blood.

ANGEL'S STORY: I didn't think
much of her. She was flabby,
(Continued on page 58)

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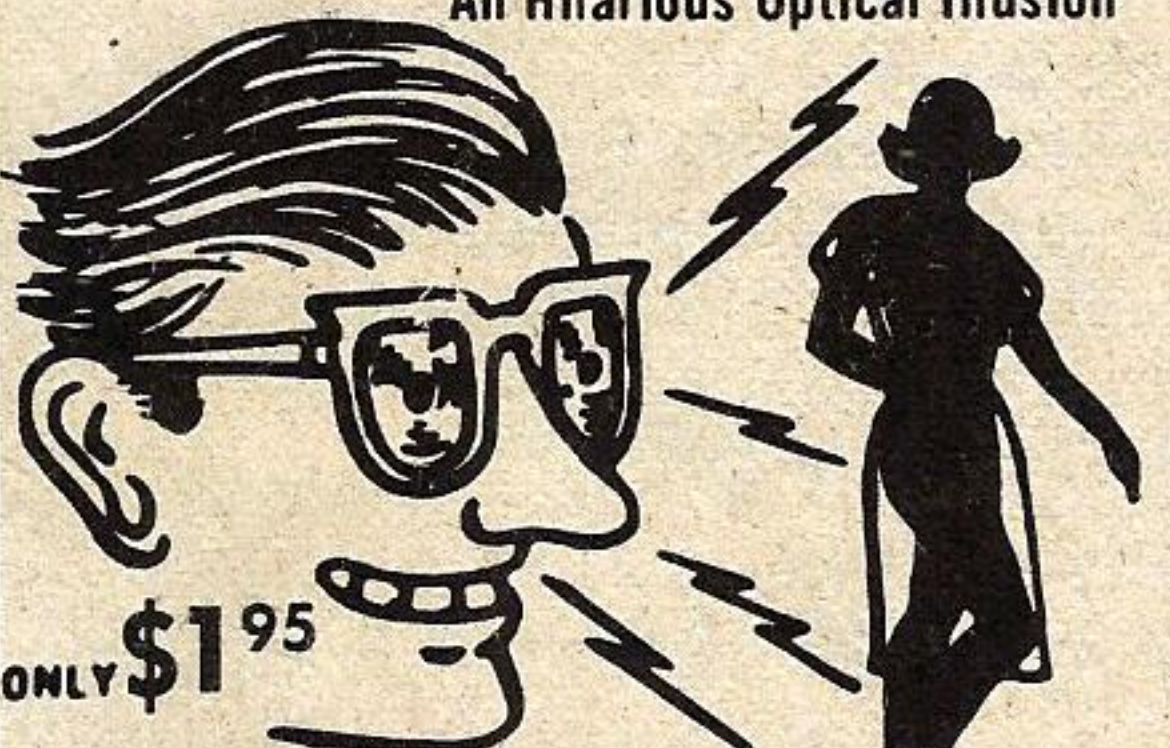
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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

(Continued from Page 56)

unattractive. See a girl with a soft belly and you can knock her off 10 out of 10 times. I just sat back and watched her come at me.

Would you believe this bimbo started off with a tackle? Come on, Frenchie, this isn't some sleazy bar. Sure I go down. Big deal. What did it get her? I was back on the attack in seconds.

didn't have splinters. Still, hearing her fat squeak across the floor did me good.

Then I dug my nails into her face. The scratches were an improvement. Her fear made her wild. Still, I controlled her like a cowboy controls a bucking bronco.

Frenchie kept jerking so much



Gaby's powerfully voluptuous body strains to its limits as she struggles to escape Angel's powerful grasp. At this point, it appeared Gaby would never be able to survive the next few minutes of battle.

And what an attack! The woman almost fell right then and there. I started off with a beautiful kick to her belly. When she doubled over, the same knee landed on her head. Her eyes rolled and her mouth fell open. She was helpless. God, I enjoyed watching her flop around.

When she fell to the ground, I was on her in an instant. There wasn't a part of that gross body I didn't maul. I grabbed her thigh at one point and started dragging her across the floor. Too bad it

she fell to the floor. I dug my nails into her chin. She's at my mercy now. I'm dragging her backwards. Damn couch! I trip against it. I still hold Frenchie in my clutches, but it's all awkward. She twists, squirms, and struggles free.

She gets to her feet first. I'm still getting up when fatso kicks me in the belly. It hurts. Luckily, I know how to defend myself. I get her near the chair and make sure she falls over it. Then I'm free. Before Frenchie knows what



Angel smashes her knee into Gaby's jaw (above) only to have the French beauty reverse the situation less than a minute later (below).



happens, I've got her arm and twisting as hard as possible.

I've got to give her credit for guts. She could have broken her arm escaping. Maybe she isn't brave, just dumb.

From that moment on, I'm a tigress. She withers under my attack. Everything I do is perfect. I twist her arms and legs, batter her around the room, have her at my mercy. My best moment is when I catch her in a full-nelson.

My arms feel like steel bands as I apply the pressure. The strength is sapped from her body as she crumples to the floor.

(Continued on page 62)

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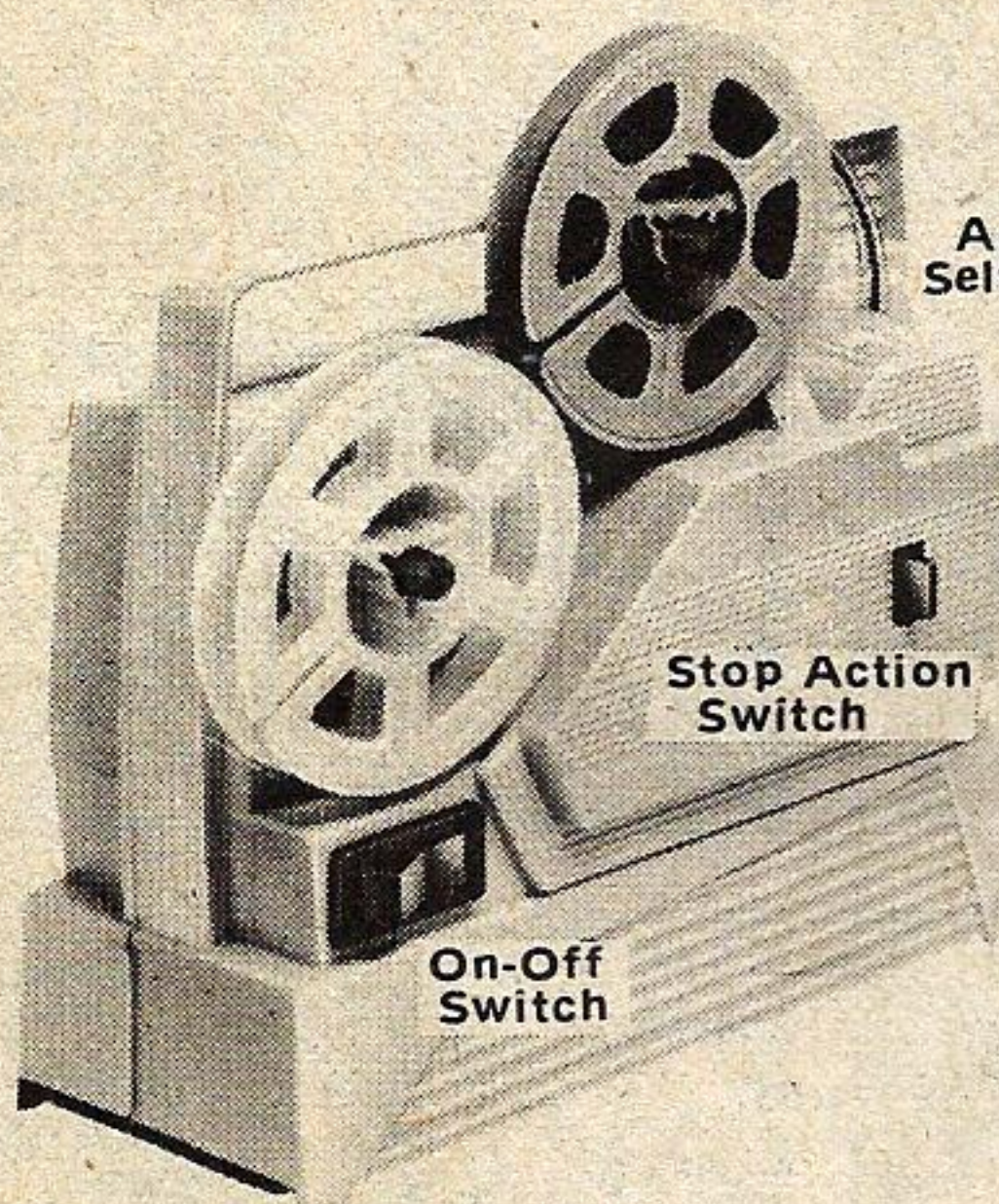
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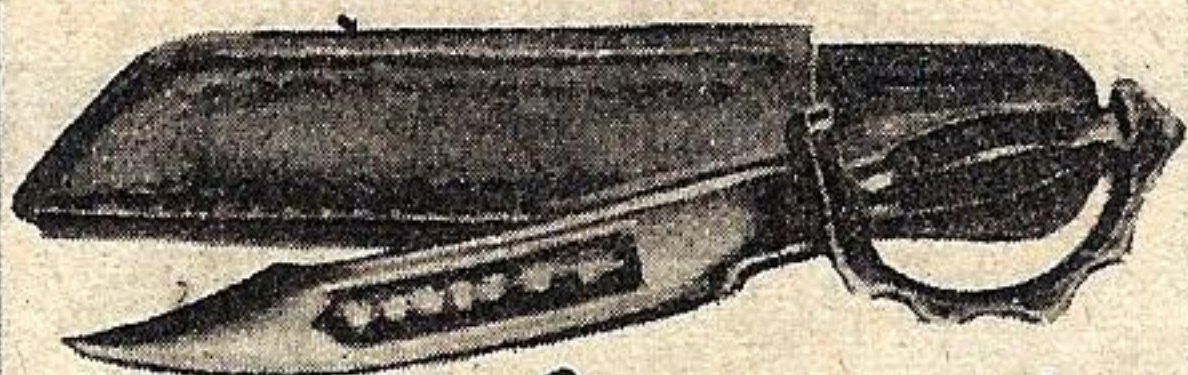
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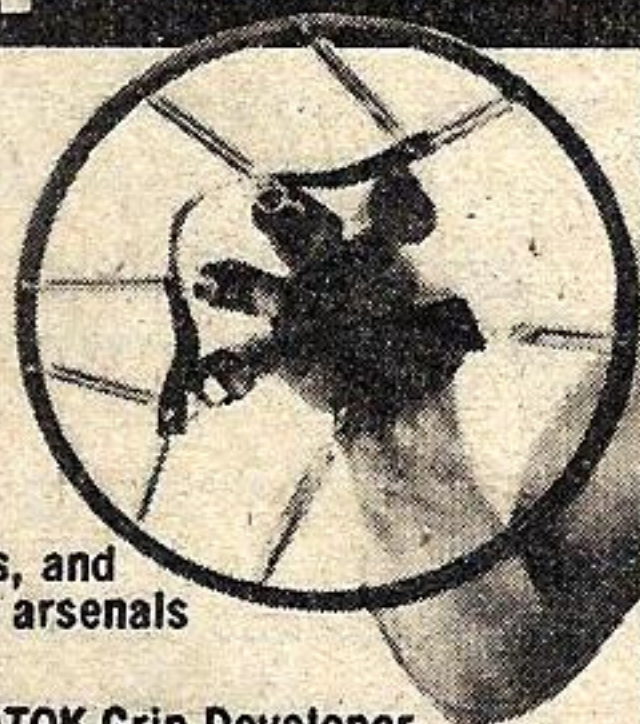
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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

(Continued from Page 59)



With the savage delight of a warring Amazon, Angel smashes her knee into the small of Gaby's back. The exquisite brunette's look of insensible agony shows how brutalizing Angel's ferocity can be.

When she fell to her knees, I released her.

As she kneeled, trying desperately to regain her strength, I kicked her in the side. She doubled over, her fat rolling up. All her ugliness was there for everyone to see. She didn't care. She was finished.

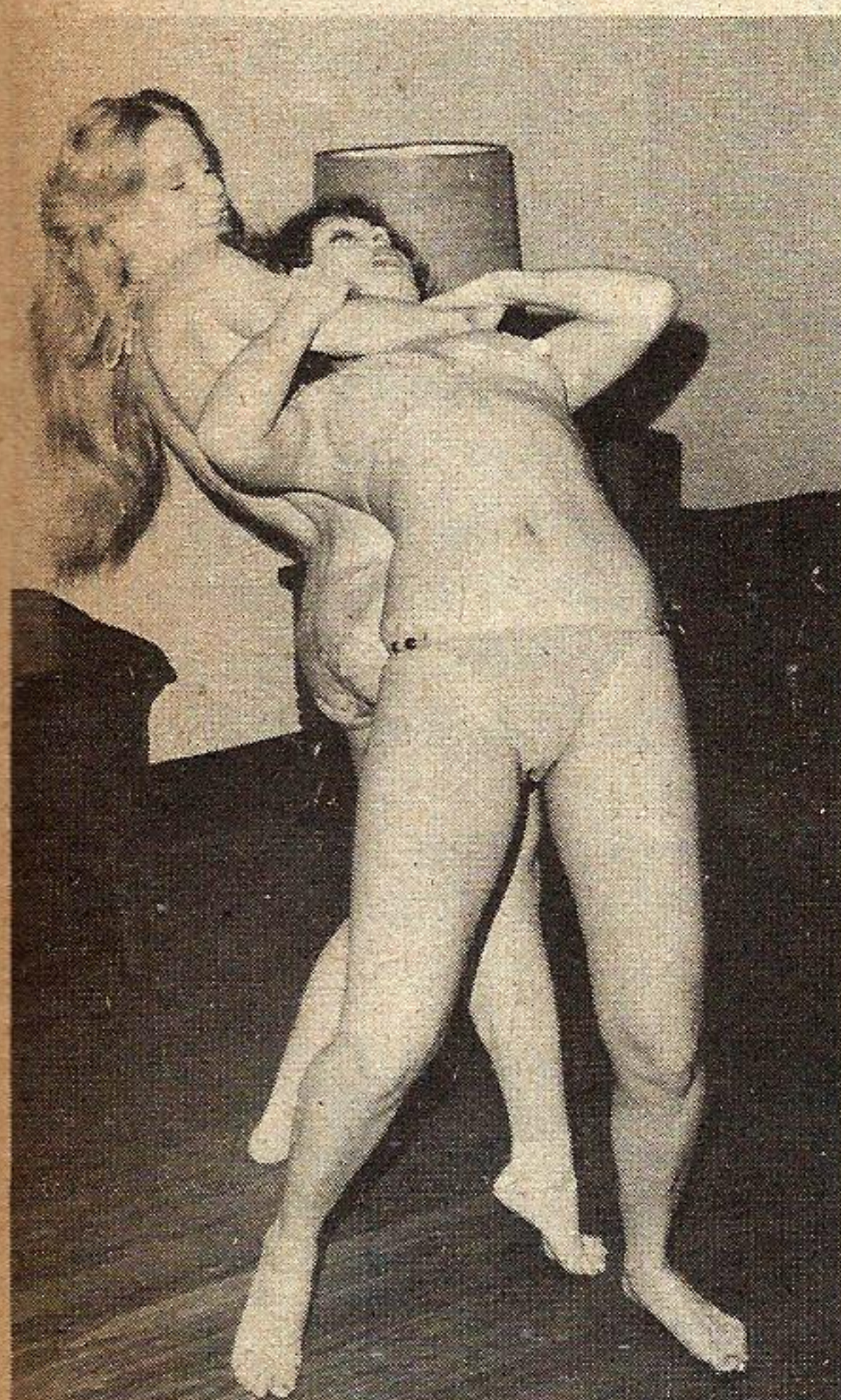
I tried kicking her again, but missed. The damn slick floor made me slip. I found myself on my knees, staring at Frenchie's ugly face. All I wanted to do was punch it. So I did. It feels good to hit. I smashed her again.

She tried to hit back, but she didn't stand a chance. Her

punches had all the sting of a feather. My punches cracked off every inch of her. I thought I was going to kill her. That was a good thought.

Her eyes went glassy. She was crying. God, did she look ugly with her nose running and tears streaking her mascara. Harry had to stop it. I guess he called it a draw out of pity.

HARRY YOUNGER'S STORY:
I've traveled the world, seen athletic events of all types. Once,



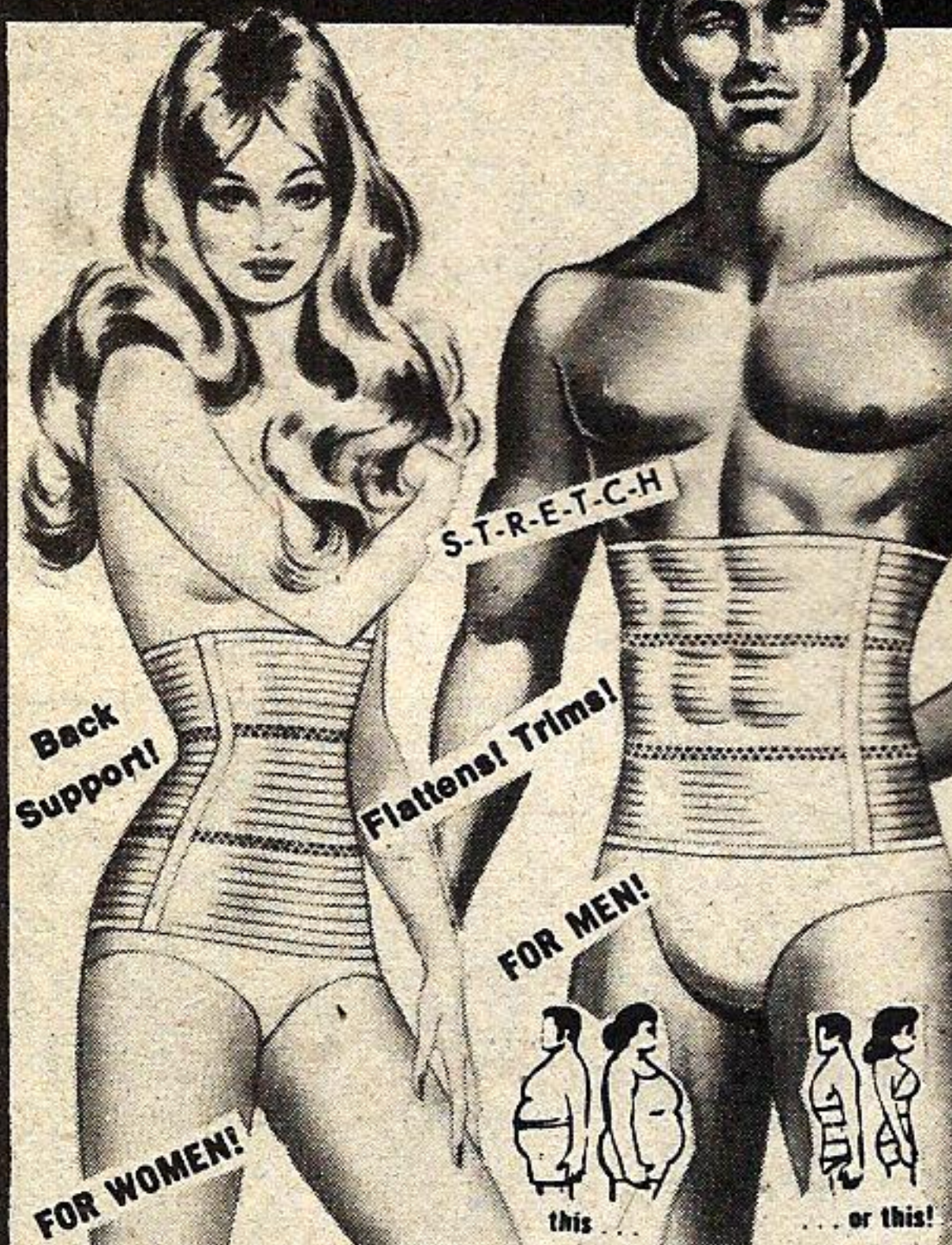
Angel smiles with delight as she has Gaby by the throat, mercilessly choking her almost helpless victim.

I thought being a spectator could never equal the thrill of participation. The magic electricity of skiing down the Austrian Alps seemed to me the epitome of athletic delight. Yet, after watching Gaby and Angel, nothing my body can accomplish could equal the joy of watching these two magnificent beauties in combat.

From the first moment, it was a kaleidoscope of action. Gaby, every muscle in her torso hard and poised, made the first move.

(Continued on page 64)

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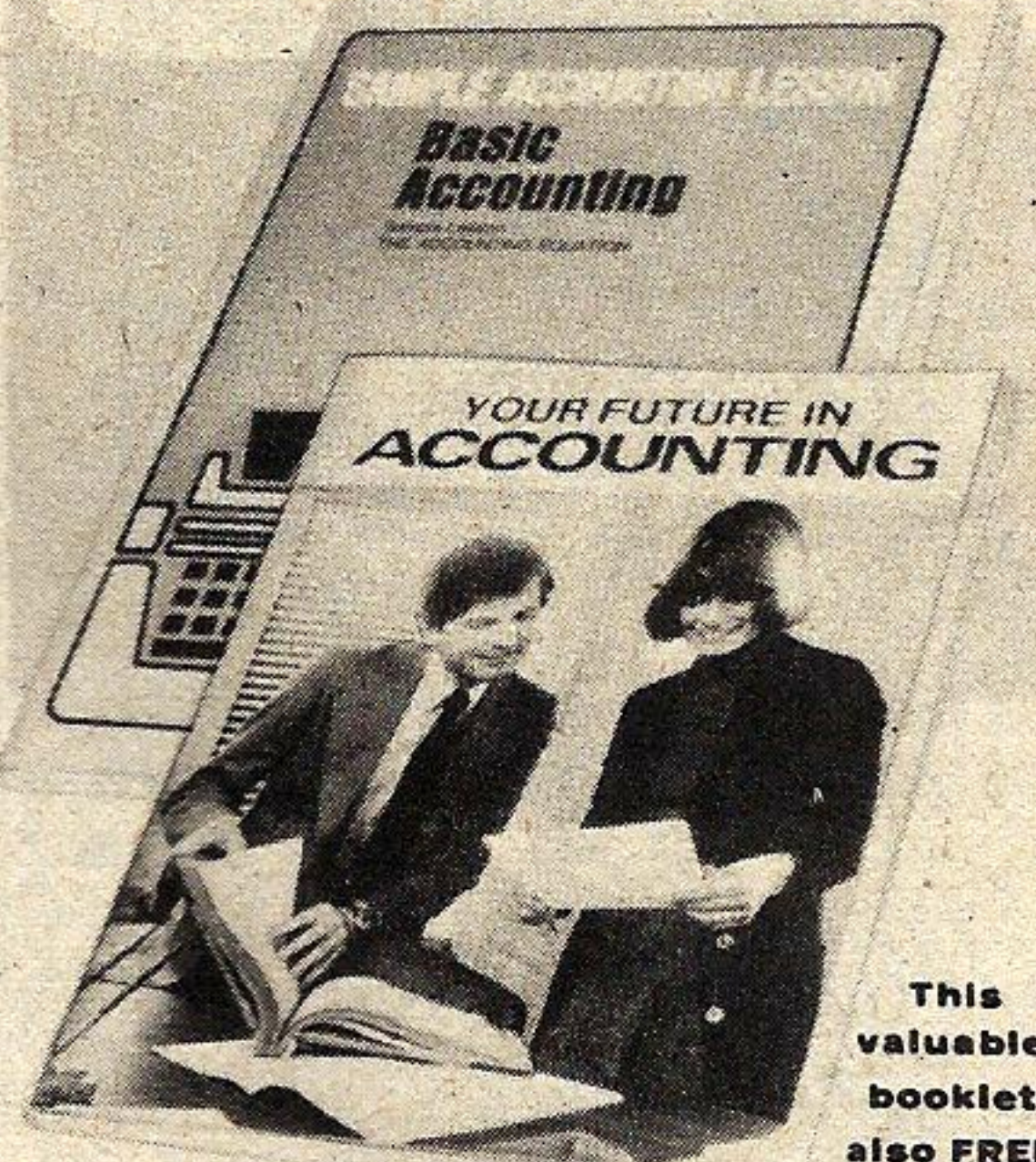
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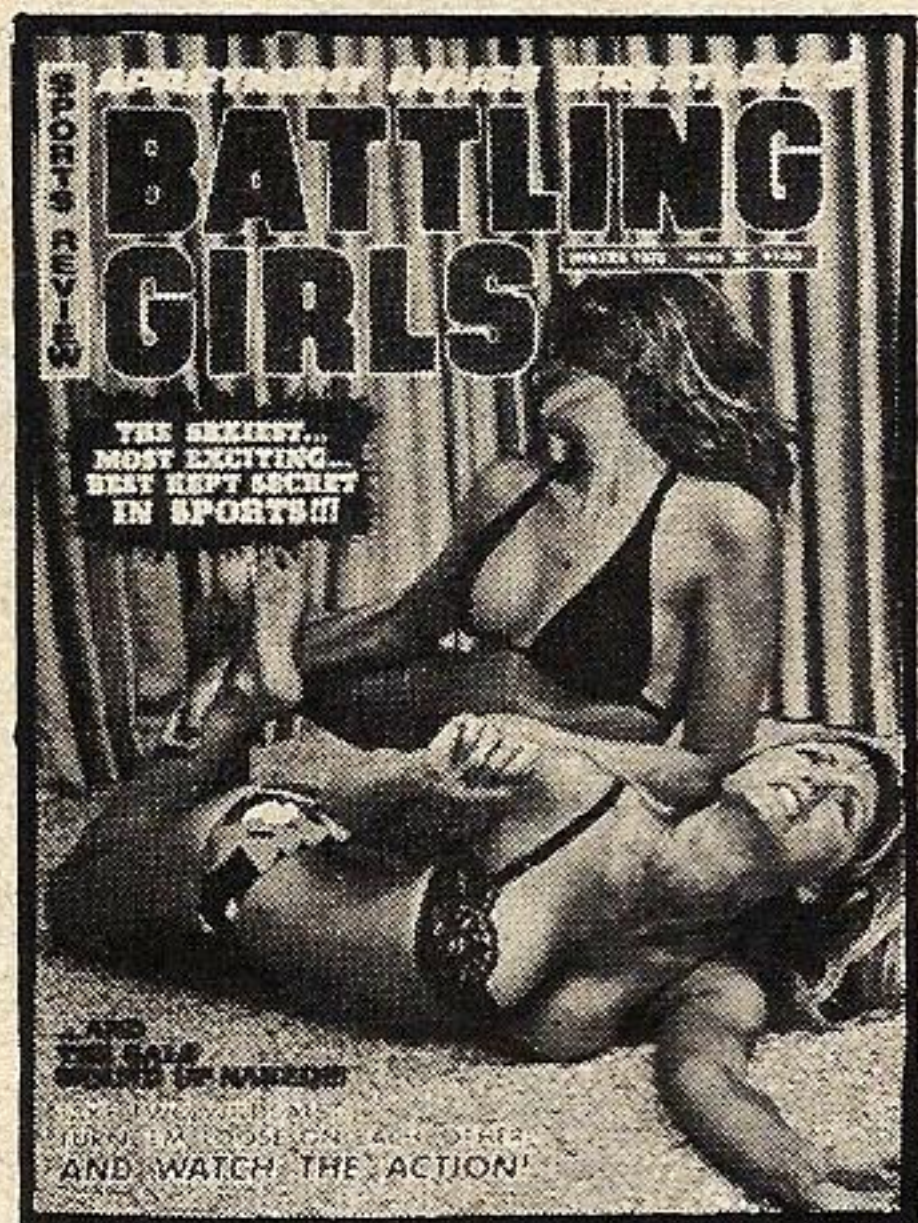
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WINTER 1975

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

(Continued from Page 63)

A tackle brought both women to the ground. Scuffling saw hands and feet dig into soft flesh as the combatants explored each other's body, searching for weak points and flaws. The frustration on each beauty's face revealed none had been found.

Angel took the advantage at this point. She tortured her foe with the cruelest tactics



Above: Exhausted, brutalized, but still warring on some courage few of us will ever know, Gaby and Angel trade a flurry of punches. Below: Gaby's fingers desperately try to break Angel's deathgrip.

imaginable. The French gamin writhed under the assault. Her classic features contorted in agony. One could feel her pain, but could only imagine her courage. Great art does the same thing; one can feel the humanity yet only humbly wonder at the majesty. At that moment, I both loved and feared Gaby.

Somehow, the brunette escaped. Then, she began her own attack. The fluidity of her movements are a terrible beauty. Angel shows no fear as she absorbs great punishment. A punch to the blonde's belly doubled her over. Gaby grabbed her fallen foe. Strong fingers wrap around an alabaster neck, scarlet marks branded where fingers ruthlessly squeezed. Angel had to be choking to



death. Still, she was nobly beautiful, struggling to be free.

Then, Angel and Gaby fell across a chair. The hold was broken. The two women leaped at each other like jungle cats, warring for life. The next five minutes were a symphony of savagery, an exhibition of such awesome excellence that it can never be equaled. Each woman excelled in combat, bringing the sport to the level of art.

It would take a great poet to describe the incredible beauty of these two women, bodies extended exquisitely and glistening with sweat. Every movement celebrated an exalted sensuality of terror. Spectators were at once horrified by the brutality yet captivated by its splendor. It's a sensation I've never felt before, and never expect to feel again.

The battle exhausted both women. Their movements became sluggish and strained. They winced as bruised ribs sent tendrils of agony to the brain. Each maneuver became awkward, as painful for the attacker as for the victim. Their flawless skins grew mottled with bruises and scratches. Yet, with each disfiguration, the pair became more beautiful.

Then, both women sank to their knees. Almost senseless with fatigue and pain, they nevertheless continued to punch each other. Loping punches, getting strength from the body falling behind it, cracked and slapped faces, bellies, breasts, and thighs. Eyes once electric with excitement grew dull and aimless. Still, driven by some furious passion most of us will never know, they continued to brawl.

I had no other choice. To prolong this dual torture was senseless. I stepped between them and stopped the match. The pair were so weak anyone could have stopped them. □

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